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# Israeli bid threatens peace — PLO

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli attempts to close OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli attempts to close down Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem are threatening to destroy the Middle East peace process, a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official warned on Saturday. Faisal Husseini, the de facto Palestinian minister for Jerusalem, appealed to Israel to stop harassing Palestinian organisations in the city. "We are determined to lift the Israeli siege, which aims to cut off Jerusalem from the Palestinians of the West Bank, the people of Jerusalem from their institutions, and to isolate the city from the international community," he said. Mr. Husseini was speaking at a joint Israeli-Palestinian rally of 150 intellectuals and pacifists at the Orient House, the PLO headquarters in east Jerusalem. He told AFP that if Israel succeeded in closing the Orient House it would result in "the destruction of the peace process because that would mean Jerusalem is no longer negotiable, contrary to what was stipulated in the Oslo accord."

Number 6004



### Israeli planes attack Hizbollah in Lebanon

SIDON (AFP) — Israeli planes raided a hilltop stronghold cootrolled by Hizbollah guerrillas in South Lebanon on Saturday in revenge for a bomb attack on a pro-Israeli militaman, security sources said. The Israel army said the planes, which all returned safely, destroyed one of the group's bases in the Iqlim At Toufah heights. An Israeli fighter-bomber hit Louaizeh hill in the heights, sociording to Lebanon police who said there were no casualties. The raid followed a bomb attack by guerrillas on the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army militia of Soueida in the centre of the Jewish state's self-declared security zone in South Lebanon which left one militiamen wounded (see page 12). A small pro-Isranian group, the militaren wounded (see page 12). A small pro-tranian group, the Faithful Resistance, which is chose to Hizbollah but independent, said it carried out the raid and claimed there were several victims but there was oo independent confirmation of the claim.

AMMAN SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 1995, RABI' AL THANI 1, 1416

### Price: Jordan 150 Fils

### Spranger opens talks in Syria

Volume 19

DAMASCUS (R) - German Economic Cooperation and Development Minister Carl-Dieter Spranger opened talks on Saturday with Syrian officials which included dis-cussion of Syria's \$640 million debt to Germany, offi-cials said. They said Mr. Spranger and Syrian Econo-mie Minister Mohammad Imadi also reviewed Germany's participation in a number of economie development projects in Syria. A German spokesman said Mr. Spranger, on a regional tour, would also discuss how Germany eould contribute to Arab-Israeli peace talks. Mr. Spranger arrived here from

### Gaza airport gets go-ahead

GAZA CITY (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat gave the go-ahead Saturday for the construction of an airport on 600 acres of land in the southern Gaza Strip, a Palestinian govern-ment official said. The landowners have protested against the planned expropriation of their property, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

### Egypt lifts ban on play

CAIRO (AFP) - Egyptian Culture Minister Faruq Hosni on Saturday lifted a ban be imposed on an antigovernment play after the director agreed to stick by a version authorised by the censor, sources elose to the ministry said. Galal Al Shargawi, the director of "A Constitution! Gentlemen," agreed in writing to abide by the censor's conditions after the play was banned on Wednesday, the same sonrees said.

### Cyprus police on 'militant alert'

NICOSIA (R) — Police in Cyprus are on a security alert after intelligence sources said an outlawed Arab militant group was planning attacks on the island, a police spokesman said on Saturday. We recently received information that this Arab group is planning to carry out attacks on foreign interests and murder foreigners living in Cyprus," Savvas Anto-niades said. He declined to name the group. Security has been tightened around embassies of Israel, several Arab states and some Western countries.

### Iran daily confirms diplomats' expulsion

TEHRAN (AFP) - A newspaper bere confirmed on Saturday the expulsion of two Iranian diplomats by Germany, reported earlier by an Iranian opposition group-Without giving any sources, Kayhan daily said Germany had ordered the diplomats to leave the country in a suspicious and insulting move. "This surprising move will definitely have a negative impact on relations between the two countries." The daily, close to anti-Western, Islamie hardliners, arged the Foreign Ministry to "respond firmly with a similar measure to defend the dignity of the Islamie republie.

### Iran to hold Majiis elections in March

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran will bold elections for its 270-member Majlis, or partiament, March 8 with wider political freedoms, a senior official announced Saturday. The official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Deputy In-terior Minister Ali Reza Tabesh as saying that candidate registration will begin shortly. "Candidates from all groups and factions are permitted to join the elections individually and independent from such groups or factions once their eligibility is en-dorsed by election investigation boards," Mr. Tabesh dealliances are a political and social freedoms.

The sum of the political and social freedoms. clared. He pledged "more

# Banks allowed to invest, lend in foreign currency

CBJ move seen to reflect confidence in economy and strength of the dinar

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has removed restrictions on banks investing their foreign exchange boldings in international capital markets and lending for local investment

A CBJ circular, sent to all commercial banks last week, said banks were free to invest 50 per cent of their foreign currency boldings in triple A rated international corporate bond issues and in U.S., German, Japanese, Swiss and British treasury bonds. The memorandum also

told the commercial banks they were permitted to use up to 50 per cent of elients deposits in foreign currency to finance development pro-

A CBJ statement said that the step, seen as reflecting high confidence in the economy and the status of the Jordanian dinar, was taken in a bid to serve the interests of the depositors and the commercial banks as well as to benefit the national eco-

The statement said commercial banks were now allowed to: - Grant loans in Jordan to companies and public and private institutions for invest-ment in industrial, agricultural and tourism projects as well as export-oriented operations and infrastructure projects with CBJ approval.

- Enter into partnership in syndicated loans inside the Kingdom or abroad for Jordanian projects. In the latter ease, the partnership would be limited for short and medium terms not exceeding five years.

The CBJ said that the decision will allow local banks to invest foreign currency and make profits with the least risk, and will provide loans in foreign currency to finance infrastructure, exports, tourism, agriculture and other projects and will eventually ensure further income to Jordan in foreign exchange. The statement said that the

move was in line with the CBJ's drive to liberalise currency regulations and lift restrictions on foreign currency. It said the move will offer borrowers the chance to benefit from the foreign currency reserves of the Kingdom, which have reached \$3 billion — including all forms of foreign currency boldings, gold and receivables — rather than resorting to foreign mar-

It said that the move would open the door for moneyebangers to expand foreign currency operations in the country. The circular also allowed

commercial banks: - To buy government bonds, treasury bills and bonds issued by public in-stitutions in the United States, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and Switzerland in currencies of the respective countries provided the maturity of such

-To buy bonds and treasury bills issued by regional and international institutions and prime companies for periods not exceeding 10 years in currencies mentioned above.

bonds do not exceed 10

- To buy Jordanian government bonds in foreign currency without maturity limit. The CBJ also allowed

banks operating in Jordan to conduct Inter-bank borrowing of foreign currency to cover its current payments or for investments.

The statement noted that the CBJ allows non-resident citizens to keep accounts with local banks in any amount of

(Continued on page 7)

# U.S. beefs up its forces in Gulf; Iraq says reports were wrong

Combined agency dispatches

AROUND 28,000 U.S. military personnel are in a "veryhigh state of readiness" 10 deter any Iraqi threat to its neighbours, the commander of U.S. Navy forces in the region said Saturday.

Iraqi forces have raised concern with "unusual" military activity since July although "at this point in time there are no movements of forces towards Kuwait," Vice Admiral Scott Redd told reporters on the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoin in the Gulf.

But be warned: "If we see a column of Iraqi troops and heavy equipment heading south, we're not going to sit around and picnic.

'We're not going to let them line up a bunch of tanks on the Kuwaiti border before deciding that this is something serious."

In line with military practice, be declined to say exactly how U.S. forces would PLO jails 2 bombing suspects in

Under a U.N. resolution adopted after a military build-up along the Kuwaiti border last October, Iraqi troops are barred from crossing the 32nd Parallel, which runs through the city of Najaf, unless they are based in

the south, Deterring Iraq were a total of 23,000 U.S. Navy, Army, Marines and Air Force personnel in the region, along with another 5,000 aboard a second aircraft carrier in the Eastern Mediterranean, the USS Theodore Roosevelt. Adm. Redd said.

The Abraham Lincoln, a nuclear-powered vessel with 5,500 sailors and almost 200 pilots along with 80 aircraft, has been ordered to stay in the Gulf as a precaution until it is replaced by the Independence in September.

"The Lincoln would have normally been on her way home via Australia several days ago," he said. In addition, seven supply

ships with enough tanks and other equipment for 16,500 Marines and almost 6,000 soldiers have entered the Gulf within the last few days, U.S. Navy officers said.

If needed, the troops would be flown to the Gulf to "marry up" with their equipment, they said.

"The forces we bave on station are in a very high state of readiness," but a formal state of alert has not been declared, according to Adm. Redd, the commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command who also com-mands the Fifth Fleet.

Although Iraq was decimated during the 1991 war to free Kuwait, it has been rebuilding its forces and "they do have a significant capability," Adm. Redd said. "We take the threat seriously."

Iraq meanwhile poured scorn on U.S. fears of "unusual" Iraqi troops movements saying American in-

(Continued on page 7)

# His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday confers with Egyptian Foreign

Minister Amr Musa in a meeting attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zetd Ben Shaker (photo by Yousef Allan)

# Musa delivers message, discusses Iraqi events

Kabariti reaffirms Jordan's policy of non-interference in others' affairs Aug.8 defection to Jordan of Egypt were discussed and

By P.V.Vivekanand Jordan Times Stuff Reporter

AMMAN -- Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa paid a flying visit to Amman on Saturday for discussions on the implications of the recent defection of a high-ranking Iraqi minister to Jordan as well as issues related to a major economic conference that

Amman will host in October. His Majesty King Hussein met with Mr. Musa, who delivered to him a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, over a lunch hosted by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

Details of the message were not immediately available, but it was believed to deal with the situation in Iraq and the region following the

Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, a son-in-law of President Saddam Hussein and former minister of indus-

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti held separate talks with Mr. Musa. Mr. Kabariti said later the

Earlier, Sharif Zeid and

"issue of Iraq took a big portion of our talks." The Egyptian minister said

the message dealt with "bilateral relations and pan-Arab and regional issues," which were also discussed during the audience with the King and meetings with Sharif Zeid and Mr. Kabanid.

Following the talks at the prime ministry, Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker told reporters is-

added that matters of relevance to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit to be held in Amman in late October were also reviewed. "We tackled the MENA

eonference and coordination between Egypt and Jordan to ensure its success," said the prime minister, expressing hope that "consultations between the two countries

would lead to a unified stand." Mr. Musa added that regional cooperation and the Arab-Israeli peace process, in all its tracks, were also reviewed.

In all the meetings, the Jordanian leaders were believed to have told Mr. Musa that Jordan did not intend to

(Continued on page 7)

# Crown **Prince** urges focus on science, research

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Higbness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday opened the third Jordanian Science Week" entitled. "Earth resources — ways to put them to better use," by urging scholars to help meet the Kingdom's needs in the next century, which will witness a revolution in technolo-

In view of the rapid changes and developments in the world of today at the regional and international levels, scientists should adopt new approaches to deal with issues of destiny to Jordan and the region at large, Prince Hassan told the opening session of the meeting held at the Royal Cultural Centre and organised by the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST).

This meeting offers a forum for scientists to discuss matters related to earth resources, mineral wealth, water, energy and the environment, added Prince Hassan, who is president of the HCST.

The first decade of the next eentury, said the Crown Prince is expected to witness development in three axes: a technological revolution, a revolution represented in vorld economic blocs and alliances and a revolution of advanced democracy.

The advanced technology he said, hinges on a developed scientifie base which sbould be further enhanced

(Continued nn page 7)

# Iraq sanctions could be eased, but lifting looks unlikely in short term

By Ayman Al Safadi Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Irag's new attitude of cooperation with the U.N. over the destruction of its mass destruction weapons could lead to a partial lifting of the sanctions but is unliketo produce an end to the five-year embargo that the U.N. clamped on Baghdad after its invasion of Kuwait. If the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) entrusted with eliminating Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction certifies that Iraq

has fulfilled its obligations under U.N. resolutions related to its armament programmes. Iraq will be allowed to resume its exports, including oil, the country's mainstay revenue earner.

This will be done in accordance with article 22 of Re-

that embargo on Iraqi exports will be lifted once it has been proven that Baghdad has destroyed all its chemical. biological and nuclear weapons and long-range missiles (see editorial, page 6).

Rolf Ekeus, head of UN-SCOM, said in Amman last week that Iraq had not ability to produce nuclear arms, that it is left with no significant chemical weapons and that all its long-range missiles have been accounted for.

The only concern the U.N. has about Iraq's weapons at this point are the biological arms. on which UNSCOM received "important data" during its latest visit to Iraq this month. Mr. Ekeus said his team

agreed with Iraq to work with maximum speed to finish the UNSCOM mission and that he will have to report to the ress of his work by the end of

this year.

If Mr. Ekeus gives Iraq a clean bill of health. the Security Council will have to lift the embargo on Iraqi oil sales in compliance with Resolution 687.

But former Minister of Information Jawad Anani said that even if Baghdad is allowed to sell its oil, it will not be able to use the revenues for the purchase of majerials banned under other U.N. resolutions.

Mr. Ekeus said that if Iraq complies with all U.N. resolutions, all members of the Security Council will have no choice but to end the sanctions. But the problem here. Dr. Anani said, is proving that I raq has fulfilled all these resolutions. Before the sanctions are

lifted in their entirety, Iraq

ing the human rights of all Iraqis and will have to account for all Kuwaitis that have been missing since the Gulf war in 1991.

Proving this will not be an . easy task. said Dr. Anani. adding that the difficulties entailed in the process of verifying Iraq's compliance with these resolutions will provide room for countries ... intent on keeping the sanctions on Iraq with political manoeuvring aimed at top-pling the Iraqi regime. Iraqi Foreign Minister

Mohammad Al Sahhaf is on record as saying essentially the same thing.
In recent statements in

Amman, Mr. Sahhaf argued that the U.S. will prevent the official lifting of the sanctions even if Iraq complies with U.N. resolutions.

(Continued on page 7)

### Security Council on the proghas to prove that it is respectsolution 687, which stipulates Iraqi decision to air King's speech remains a big puzzle

Special to the Jordan Times

THE IRAQI government's decision to broadcast in full His Majesty King Hussein's address to the nation Wednesday caught Jordanians and the Iraqi community living in Jordan by surprise over the weekend. Officials, parliamentarians and observers were still groping for answers yesterday as to why the speech, in which His Majesty King Hussein strongly criticised the Iraqi leadership, was shown by Iraq's

official television network. According to the opomists: among them, the move showed the Iraqi regime is willing to accept criticism of its practices and at the same time reassuring the Iraqi people that relations with Jordan were still strong, to the extent be broadcast on Iraqi TV

without any problem.
"It would have been very difficult for the Iraqi leaders already to bear the King, who enjoys both the popularity and credibility among the Iraqi people, express great disappointment with them." a Jordanian official said. "How they decided to let all Iraqis know what His Majesty had to say about their leadership. I do not know," added the official, who requested anonymity.

This view was shared not only by other Jordanians, but also by Iraqis living in Jor-

The sky is the limit in trying to explain what bap-pened," an Iraqi citizen living in Amman told the Jordan Times. "It could be that Saddam is preparing the ground for himself to defect here." she said in amazement. But short of accepting the

far-fetched "theory" on a possible asylum by the Iraqi president in Jordan, observers and analysts cited a number of factors that coold have been bebind the Iraqi decision to rebroadeast the speech on a TV channel run by none other than the president's eldest son, Uday. There was a near consen-

sus by analysts and politicians interviewed by the Jordan Times oo the idea that the decisioo to broadcast the speech was a tactic by President Saddam to show confidence and send out a message both to his people and to the international community, which has not concealed its eagerness to see him ousted.

(Continued on page 7)

## Gen. Hassan thanks King

FORMER Iraqi Minister of Industry Hussein Kamel Hassan thanked His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday for speaking out against Iraqi policies

"Your Majesty's national comprehensive speech had the greatest impact on our souls for the true and sincere Arab feelings it en-tailed," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Lientenant-General Hassan as saying in a cable to the

King.
"Your concern, care and support for us is just another addition to the inunmerable generous ges-tures of the Hashemites throughout history."

### Jericho despite Israeli pressure OCCUPIED JERUSALEM have banded the explosives (Agencies) — A military court in Palestinian-ruled to the Jerusalem suicide bom-Jerieho has jailed militants linked by Israel to a Hamas Dudin was sentenced to 12 There was no immediate years and Khatib to seven comment from Israeli authorguerrilla cell responsible for

suicide bombings, a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) security official said on Saturday. Palestinian officials rejected Israeli demands that the two be turned over to Israel. "They were sentenced and they will stay in jail in Jericho," Municipal Affairs

porters after the weekly Palestinian cabinet meeting in the Gaza Strip. The two defendants were identified as Abdul Majed Dudin and Rushdie Khatib. both members of the militant group Hamas which has claimed responsibility for bus bombings on July 24 in Tel

Minister Saed Erekat told re-

Aviv on Monday in Jeru-

A senior security official in Jerieho, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the two were believed to be members of the Hamas ring that planned the two bomb-The official said Palesti-

nian police were looking for a

third suspect, Mohedeen

Sharif, who is believed to

years after being convicted of security offences and harming Palestinian interests, said Jericho prosecutor Yousef Bisbtawi. Both are from the West Bank town of Hebron, a Hamas stronghold.

Israel announced Wednesday that it bad captured the mastermind of the ring, Abdul Nasr Issa, and 29 accomplices. Charging that other suspects fled to Jericho, Israel laid siege to the town, barring

leaving. The elosure remained in effect for a fourth day Saturday. Dr. Erekat, who lives in Jericho, said Israel imposed the closure as a means of pressure on Palestinian offi-

cials to hand over the Hamas

militants.

anyone from entering and

"The Jericho area is closed by the Israelis because Israel demanded we hand over the two persons," said Saeb Erekat, head of local govern-ment in the authority. "The Palestinian Authority refused, and according to the Palestinian law they have been charged, tried and sentenced," he said in Gaza after the authority's weekly meet-

ities during the Jewish Sabbath. A statement issued by the Palestinian security forces in Jerieho said Dudin and Khatib were charged with "carrying out activities which harm general security, the Palestinian authority and citizens and the peace pro-

The statement did not claborate. It was the first time a military court had convened in Jericho since self-rule began

there and in Gaza in May

The security official said Israel told the PLO that Dudin and Khatib were part of a Hamas cell responsible for a suicide bombing that killed four bus passengers in Jerusalem on Monday and an

attack in July near Tel Aviv in which six Israelis died. The chief of Israel's Shin Bet security service announced on Wednesday it bad arrested two of the group's ringleaders and about 30 other Hamas men. Hamas'

(Continued on page 7)



Irani mothers wait at a Baghdad hospital for medicine for their children, stricken with leukemia. Medicine is a scarce commodity in Iraq because of the crippling embargo

imposed on Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 (AFP photo)

"Iraq's four-year-old

approach of false cooperation with UNSCOM is not the

work of a single individual

but the coordinated policy of

the Iraqi government," the ambassador said. "The new

disclosures by Iraqi officials

show that these same officials

were consciously lying to

UNSCOM just three weeks

ago when they said then that

they had provided full in-

formation on their biological

Iraq when it now says it bas

come clean would be naive in

the extreme," Ms. Albright said. She said that verifying

the new information "will be

long and difficult" but neces-

sary because of Iraq's "utter

lack of credibility."
British amhassador John

Weston concurred with Ms.

The Ekeus briefing, he

said, demonstrated "the col-

ossal extent of political irres-

ponsibility manifested by the

Saddam Hussein regime in

allowing programmes of this

kind to come to this advanced

and dangerous state. ... The

newly revealed information

shows just how extensive the

lying and evasion has been in

past. We all need to be quite

careful and fully convinced

that the truth has been unear-

Ms. Albright stressed that

with the weapons require-

ment of the ceasefire agree-

ment, but the other demands

before sanctions are lifted:

Give an accounting of

Kuwaiti prisoners of war, re-

turn Kuwaiti property, stop

supporting terrorism, stop

repressing the Kurds in the north and the Shiite in the

"It's pretty tough for me to

imagine" the sanctions being

lifted in the next year, she

said. "I think putting a timef-

rame on anything is not use-

ful. ... The important point

here is that when the Security

Council holds firm there are

years of denying that such a

programme existed, Iraq

admitted for the first time

that it had an offensive biolo-

gical weapons programme

with research beginning in

late 1985. It also told the

U.N. that in an 18-month

period it had produced 500,000 liters of botulinum

and 50,000 liters of anthracis.

The new admissions build on

those details.

In July 1995 after four

south.

results.

"must not only comply

Albright's assessment.

"For anyone to believe

weapons programme."

# U.S. calls Ekeus report on Iraq weapons programme 'chilling'

(USLA) - The head of the U.N. Commission overseeing the destruction of Iraqi weapons told the U.N. Security Council on Friday of Irag's latest admission that it had a large, well-advanced germ warfere programme and was rushing to deploy a nuclear weapon by April

Ambassador Rolf Ekeus. chairman of the U.N. Commission overseeing the destraction of Iraqi weapons (UNSCOM), brief the council hours after his return from Bagisdad and Amman where he met with too Iraqi officials and with Lieutenant-General Husseln Kamel Hassan, the former head of Irag's weapons programme who recently defected to Jordan.

Mr. Eleus left with more than 150 crates and eight large shipping containers of documents from Iraqi offidals that reportedly contain information on the amount of iethal gam warfare agents that Iraq possessed and the anten, of its biological and nuclear walcons programthat Boghtad had prepricingly hidden from U.N. inspectors. They were turned to the UTSCOM chairman at a farm frequentials raid belonged to Gen. Hus-

rasin Ramel.
"I know a wesith of valuable new information was deis to verify that this information (is) correct, and more important to verify (that) no items are left for Iraq to threaten its neighbours." Mr. Elizes said.

U.S. Ambassador Miadeleine Albright called Mr. Ekeus' report "chilling in terms of the potential for usage of ... weapons programmes and how close we all jeame to a major disaster." Ms. Albright singled out three disclosures: Iraq produced additional biological agents beyond the botulinum gand anthrows they had admitted to; it had a comprehensive programme to produce fand deploy some 200 fully cegable blological warheads for delivery by air and longrange missiles; and a crash programme to deploy a nuclear derice by April 1991.

The madestedor said that Iran apparently decided not to use the biological warbeods after its invasion of Etated trade clear the Consequences of using such rain" toxins. It was exweapons."
"The row information

dangerous weapons programme before and after the Gulf war than even UNSCOM had known," she said. "Iraq continned its work in these areas even after it accepted Resolution 687, even when it claimed sanctions were reducing Iraq to poverty. It did its best to preserve major elements of its programme in order to revive its as soon as

UNSCOM had said in early August that it was not satisfied with the information it had received from Baghdad on the biological weapons programme and that it suspected Iraq had actually produced more of the agents than it bad admitted and may have hidden other production lines and sites.

After the meeting, diplomats said they were most disturbed by the size and scale of production of the biological weapons, the way in which Iraq had been preparing different kinds of weapon delivery systems, and the advanced state of production and deployment.

At a press conference after meeting the council. Mr. Ekeus said that "we have a new situation (in which) we see a full-scale programme that matured in very aggressive form after the invasion of Kuwait and reached maturity in filling augitions in Decem

"Now Iraq has admitted 10 times more anthracis than it presented earlier. Iraq admitted is bad indeed put both anthracis and botulinum on weapons. ...Fonr hundred bombs were filled with anthracis and 100 bombs with boulinum toxin," Mr. Ekeus said. "Furtbermore Iraq admitted production of a new agent... and filled it in 16

The UNSCOM chairman went on to say that Iraq also admitted to filling its Al Hussein warheads - Iraq's modification of the Soviet Scuds with the anthracis (10 missiles) and botulinum (15 missiles). Between December 1 and 23, 1990, immediately before the outbreak of the Guif war in late January 1991, the weapons were brought to two air bases and

other sites around Iraq. Iraq also admitted that it was doing research on toxins perimenting, with remote controlled spray planes but to use either the toxins or weapons, he reported.

"Iraq says all weapons were destroyed. ... It remains for the commission to clarify that really all agents were destroyed," Mr. Ekeus said. The main concern is the deadly anthracis, which is relatively stable and can be kept many years without too much difficulty.

An important "but not earthshaking" bit of new information was that Iraq managed to produce its own Al Hussein missile rather than modify the Soviet import Scuds, Mr. Ekens said.

"We accounted for all Russian missiles. Now we have information Iraq bad its own. ...That means we have to have vigorous investigation to clarify no missiles are left." he said.

According to the information now provided by Baghdad, "it is clear Iraq was working on a crash programme started immediately after the invasion of Kuwait and was aiming at producing one nnclear device using highly enriched uranium from (an International Atomic Energy Agency) safe-guarded site, Mr. Ekeus said.

"It was a crash programme, a desperate effort to produce a bomh by April 1991," he said.

o rescinded its de mand that the Security Council lift the oil emhargo by Aug. 31 or it would no longer cooperate with the U.N. That ultimatum was lifted, Mr. Ekeus said, the day after Gen. Hussein Kamcl defected.

Ms. Albright told journalists after the private council meeting with Mr. Ekeus that "the latest disclosures from Baghdad say much more about the credibility of the Iraqi government and the threat it still poses to the region than they do about the possibility of lifting sanctions any time

soon.' "Even when the Iraqi government provides information it feels compelled to wrap it in a package of false-hood. Iraq bas again insulted the intelligence of the council with the story even a child could not believe: That in Saddam Hussein's Iraq, Hussein Kamel single-handedly ran a weapons programme involving cabinet ministers and thousands of specialists and managed to conceal the details of that programme

from Saddam Hussein him-

### UNITED NATIONS (R) -In an unusual bit of drama, the U.N. chief weapons inspector described on Friday how he was taken to an aban-

doned farm to receive tonnes of documents on weapons allegedly held by a defector. U.N. Special Commission

Chairman Rolf Ekeus, in charge of ridding Iraq of weapons of mass destruction, told a news conference how he received thousands of documents on Iraq's efforts to produce nuclear arms, germ weapons and ballistic

"They rang me as I was packing and said, 'you don't have to go to the aircraft but a farm (in Iraq) owned by

**NEWS IN BRIEF** 

200 Egyptian deputies lose gun permits

CAIRO (AFP) - Some 200 Egyptian deputies were

among 18,000 people who have had gun permits withdrawn in the past two years, Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfi said

Saturday. "In the past two years... out of the 214,000 gun

permits granted to citizens, some 18,327 have been

withdrawn" mostly because people only wanted an arm for "prestige," General Alfi told the daily Al Ahram. Over the

same period "200 permits for semi-automatic arms" given

to Egyptian deputies were cancelled because citizens are

banned from carrying such types of weapons. Gen. Alfi said that 27,574 illegal weapons had been seized in sweeps

including 2,509 automatic rifles and 283 artillery rifles.

ASSIUT, Egypt (R) — Suspected militants shot dead a

pobcemen's club cook on his way home in south Egypt, an

Interior Ministry statement said on Saturday. The attack on

Friday night killed Mohammad Fahmy Ahmad in a village

near the town of Mallawi in Minya province, 260

kilometres south of Cairo. Police sources said they sus-

pected the attackers were members of Egypt's largest

militant organisation, Al Gamaa Al Islami, ah. The Gamaa

leads a campaign to overthrow President Hosni Mubarak's

government and establish a strict Islamic state. More than 820 people, most of them police and militants, have been

U.S. citizens told to avoid public transport in Israel

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States warned its

citizens Friday to avoid the use of public transportation,

especially huses and bus stops in Israel and Gaza following

Monday's bus bombing in Jerusalem. The State Depart-

ment said the restriction did not apply to tour huses. The bus bombing in Jerusalem on Monday left five people dead

and wounded 100, the sixth incidence of suicide bombing

IZMIR (AP) - A brothel owner said Friday that for the

first time prostitutes are forming a union to improve their compensation. Aysel Firmali said that so far 36 prostitutes

had joined the union; entitling them to collective hargain-

ing. She hopes to encourage many more prostitutes around

the country to unionise, but faces strong opposition from

other hrothel owners who prefer to keep their employees

unregistered. Ms. Firmali said she had received threats

from other brothel owners. Turkey permits prostitution.
There are more than 3,000 prostitutes legally working in

Wonder visits a top Arafat aide in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Singer Stevie Wonder visited a close advisor of Yasser Arafat in Jerusalem

Friday, bringing a message of hope that "Palestinians and Israelis can be as one." Dr. Ahmad Tibi, a Palestinian

gynecologist who often explains Palestinian politics to the

Israeli public because of his fluent Hebrew, received Mr.

Wonder in his home just north of Jerusalem. "I just wanted

to say that we all love Stevie and we are very pleased that he is here in East Jerusalem." Dr. Tibi said, holding hands

with the music idol as the two sat on the couch. "He is loved by all, Israelis and Palestinians, Jews and Arabs. He

is the symbol of struggle for equality, peace and freedom and we are very proud that you are here," he added. "We

Somailiand frees Norwegian; 5 still held

OSLO (R) — The leader of Somaliland said on Friday a

Norwegian diplomat detained in the breakaway state had

been released but five other people seized when their plane

landed in the capital Hargeisa were still being held. Mohammad Ibrahim Egal, president of the self-proclaimed

African republic, told the Norwegian television station TV2 by telephone that Oeyvind Nordgaren, a diplomat at the Norwegian embassy in the Kenyan capital Nairobi, had been freed. "Nordgaren has been released," Mr. Egal said.

"He himself decided to stay (in Hargeisa) with friends, but

he will be leaving tomorrow." Asked about the other detainees, he only said: "That is a different story altogether."

like your songs and we like you."

Prostitutes unionise in Turkey

killed in the three-year-old campaign.

since October 1994.

Turkey.

Militants kill police cook in Egypt

Ekeus collected Iraqi data from farm Hussein Kamai Hassan," Dr. Ekens said. He was referring to the general who directed the weapons programme and

defected to Jordan, arriving

in Amman on Aug. 8. Dr. Ekeus said he delayed his flight from Baghdad last Sunday and went to the farm. "There I found eight large shipping containers plus a large amount of metal boxes," he said.

The boxes numbered about 150 and contained documents in Engish and Arabic on paper, videotapes, computer disks and microfiche that are now sealed in a U.N.-protected centre in Baghdad. Dr. Ekeus said he was told that the defector's assistants

had brought the documents to the farm a day before Hussein Kamal went to Jordan. But he said, "there was no dust, they were in shining condition."

Security Council diplomats said other Iraqis indicated to Dr. Ekeus that the cache of documents was brought to the farm three days after the defection.

Dr. Ekeus then went to Jordan where be met Gen. Hussein Kamal. "His information overlapped with information provided hy Iraq," he said. "Fundamentally it was in the same direction."

Iraq's new revelations

apparently were prompted by fears of secrets that could be disclosed by the defector. U.S. Ambassador

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Madeleine Albright lashed into Iraq, saying that even when the Baghdad government provided information. "it feels compelled to wrap it in a package of falsehood."

"Iraq has again insulted the intelligence of the council with a story even a child could not believe: That in Saddam Hussem's Iraq, Hussein Kamal singlehandedly ran a weapon programme involving cabinet ministers and thousands of specialists, and managed to conceal details of its from Saddam Hussein himself," she said.

# U.S. ban on Lebanon is political — congressman

BEIRUT (AFP) — A U.S. congressman branded as 'political" a U.S. travel ban on Lebanon, saying it prevented American firms from grabbing a share of Lebanon's post-war reconstruction plans before leaving Saturday for Syria.

Martin Hoke, who is on a fact-finding mission which has taken him to Israel and Jordan, was speaking after talks late Friday with Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez.

The U.S. restrictions were first adopted after an American TWA jeltiner was hijacked to Beirut in 1985 by Shiite Muslim fundamentalists and a U.S. navy diver murdered.

They have been renewed every year and Washington warned that Lebanon was "still a dangerous place" when it extended the ban for another six months in Febru-

Mr. Hoke, who technically defied the ban by flying into Beirut airport from Amman on Friday aboard the Lebanese national carrier Middle East Airlines, said there was "nothing" to be afraid of except Lebanese "The ban is clearly politic-

al. I don't think it is a security issue," Mr. Hoke said. He also met President Elias Hra-

wi and Prime Minister Rafik

Hariri. "It was a security issue 10 years ago, five years ago but not today and now as a result of being caught in the politics of it we are losing. American companies are losing."

Mr. Hoke, a Republican from Ohio, also met managers of the private development and reconstruction firm Solidere which is promoting the multi-billion-dollar reconstruction of the warshattered Beirut city centre.

"That work should be carried out by American com-panies. There are tremendous opportunities here... opportunities for economic growth for America and American companies," Ir. Hoke said.
Lebanon's post-war recon-Mr. Hoke said.

struction projects have been estimated at 15 billion dollars, with major contracts going to European countries. Westinghouse should be huilding power plants. That's who should be doing it not some company from Italy,"

Lebanon, where the 15year civil war ended in 1990. has repeatedly dismissed the ban as unjustified. In June, the United States

Mr. Hoke added.

allowed the sale of airplane tickets to Lebanon in the United States for Lebanese nationals only.

# Kuwait will not receive Iragi defector, paper says

KUWAIT (R) -- Kuwait will not receive top Iraqi defector Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan "because his hands were stained with Kuwaitis' blood," a newspaper reported on Saturday.

Gen. Hassan, who defected to Jordan this month, said in interviews published on Friday that he would like to visit Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to explain the situation and "seek their help" in toppling Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"Kuwait fully rejects to receive that person because his hands were stained with the blood of Kuwaitis," Al Watan newspaper quoted a cabinet source as saying.

Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990 and annexed it as its 19th province until a U.S.led coalition ousted Iraqi troops in 1991.
About 300 Kuwaitis were

killed during the sevenmonth occupation.

Documents confirm that he was in charge of the

looting of Kuwaiti state and private property during the vicious Iraqi occupation," the Kuwaiti cabinet source was quoted as saying.

Kuwait this year published Iraqi documents showing that Gen. Hassan had ordered the looting of Kuwaiti oil industry equipment during the occupa-

Gen. Hassan, who was in charge of military industries and acting minister of oil in 1990, has said he was only following orders when be took part in the invasion and that he now recognises Kuwait as an independent country.

Iraqi state television on Thursday broadcast a tape of a voice which the announcer said was that of Gen. Hassan, urging the government to invade Kuwait and the eastern region of Sandi Arabia. Gen. Hassan, in a radio

interview quoted by the official Kuwait News Agen-cy, said on Friday Iraqi had forged the tape.

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Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732 Fikma Modern Hospital (09)990990 Arab Centre for Heart and Special (02)272275 (02)347100 (02) .. (03)314111

**QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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### 5, where it should always be veri-fied. APRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ)

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### Athens (OA **DEPARTURES** Royal Jordanian (RJ)

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photo by You



egy for the promotion of the

status of women until the

The Princess expressed

hope that the Bejing confer-

cace will leave its positive

imprints on international

efforts to improve women's

status and safeguard their

rights. She added that the

conference is being held at a

time when the world has

become more convinced that

no sustainable socio-eco-

nomic development could

be achieved without attain-

ing equality between men and women.

Princess Basma said that

through their preparations

for the Beijing conference,

world women onions have

been able to raise awareness

on the role of women in all

fields of life and that women

are hopeful that their confer-

ence will move governments

to reconsider laws and legis-

year 2005.

Princess Basma: No sustainable socio-economic development without equality between men and women

preparations for the Beijing

conference in the Western

Asian and North African

Princess Basma, who is

leading the Jordanian dele-

gation to the conference in

Beijing, said that the delega-

tion comprises representa-

oves of governmental and

non-governmental organisa-

tions who have already held

discussions and agreed on

the unified plan for the con-

The two sides proved to

have similar views over the

items and proposals includ-

ed in the draft document, the

Princess Basma underlined

the conference's importance

as a forum to help women's

causes, and said that the Bei-

jing meeting comes one

decade after the endorse-

ment of the Nairobi declara-

tion which contained a strat-

regions.

ference.

Princess said.

banon is gressma

was a security issue I opportunities for as

growth for Amer merican compania loke said. anon's post-war rear oke added. anon, where the

s unjustified. une, the United Su d the sale of aint to Lebanon in a i States for Leban als only.

z of Kuwaiti state at property during the : Iraqi occupation iwaiti cabinet some noted as saying. ait this year pat-lraqi document eg that Gen. Hassa dered the looting of ti oil industry equip during the occupa-

of military more nd acting minister of 990, has said he was lowing orders when k part in the invasor at he now recognise t as an independent

state television or iay broadcast a tapt voice which the cer said was that d Hassan, urging the and the eastern to f Saudi Arabia. Hassan, in a min ew quoted by the Kuwait News Ages on Friday Iraqi

sed to conceal detains on Saddam Hisso she said.

i Prime Minister Rai

firm, known as Al Ikbal Development and Investment Company, will also invest in hotels and tourism transport projects io Jordan and the Palestinian territoshareholders announced at a meeting held the Inter.Continental Hotel The shareholders include Jordanian banks and busi-

By a Jordan Times Staff

Reporter

AMMAN — A group of Jor-

danian businessmen on Sat-

urday announced the estab-

lishment of a holding com-

pany which will hold up to

48 per cent equity in a pro-

posed \$500 million industri-

al estate in the West Bank in

the first realisation of an

internationally supported

programme to set up indus-trial parks in the Palestinian

The JD 30 million capital

territories.

nesses as well as individual investors. During Saturday's meeting, the general assembly elected an 11-member board of directors, which will meet at a later date to name office-bolders within the

Al Ikbal expects 48% equity in Jenin industrial estate man, managing directors. and executives. According to

Home News

sources, Tawfiq Fakhouri, chairman of the Bank of Jordan — one of the largest Jordanian commercial banks with a stroog presence in the Palestinian territories - is tipped to be elected chairman of the company. Mr. Fakhouri is a direct

investor in the new firm in addition to the Bank of Jordan, which is represented in the board of directors by

Other members of the board are: Sufian Sartawi, Farah Electrical Equipment Company, Ahmad Armoush, Deeb, Yahya Kadamani, Mohieddin Husseini, Said Turk, Nabil Barakat and Sheikh Mohammad Ben Mohammad Al Thani of Oatar.

Addressing the general assembly meeting, Mr. Fakhouri and other board members said the company would hold up to 48 per cent of the equiry in the planned industrial estate in Jenio in the West Bank on a 500dunum plot of land.

The World Bank, which is one of the key international board, including the chair- agencies administering aid

DARAT AL FUNUN .

**SUMMER '95 EXHIBITIONS** 

**EXHIBITIONS** 

"Photography show "Elements in Harmony" by Hala

\*Display of pointed stone and steel, "Embargo Art" by Iraqi

"Early Morning Scribbles" by Lebanese artist Amin, Al

Basha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and "Late Night

Scribbles" hy Amin Al Basha and artist Ali Bermamet.
"Sculpture by Rajwa Bint Alia" - Erit (1987) (1987)

3-D experiments in calligraphy by Usama Khalidi.

Who Framed Roger Rabbit?' at the American Center at

**EXHIBITIONS** 

Oil paintings by Yassin Al Mohammadawi at Baladna Art

\* Paintings hy "Pioneers of the Fifties" Isma'il and Suzanne Al Sheikhly, Khalid Qassah, and Dr. Nuri Behjet at Orfali

INTRICATE TRADITIONS: A woman picks lentils beans in preparation for a traditional meal of lentils and rice at Baqa'a camp (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Abstract art by the late artist Adnan Hilu at the Royal

Works of graphic art by several artists.

Hodieb.

artist Nuna Al Radi.

Art Gallery, Umm Utheina.

to the Palestinian territories, will be involved in the project in terms of extending technical help.

Jordanian businessmen set up JD 30m

holding firm with W. Bank focus

-Palestimans will control 52 per cent of the equity of the industrial estate, thus effectively retaining majori-ty interest and satisfying the terms adopted by the Palestinian National Authority based in Gaza.

Under an agreement being negotiated by the Palestine Organisation Liberation (PLO) and Israel, most of the West Bank, including Jenin, will go under Palestinian autonomy before the end of the year.

Details of the Palestinian partner in the industrial estate venture were not available.

Asked whether the firm intended to cooperate with other Jordanian or foreign companies which are also involved in heavy investments in the Palestinian territorics, Mr. Fakhouri pointed out that the new entity was an independent venture with affiliation to oo other

firm. He said one of the key areas that the company

within Jordan as well as Jerusalem. Jordan lacks sufficient transport facilities for tourists, and this is one of the elements, cited by many officials, that are hindering plans to exploit the full

potential of tourism in the

Kingdom.

The proposed industrial estate in Jenin is one of cight being discussed by the Palestinians, Israelis and the international community after U.S. President Bill Climan threw his weight behind the idea as a means to address the chronic unemployment among the residents of the West Bank.

However, it is expected that the first unit at any of the planned industrial parks would not be operational before 1997, given the massive work that would go into setting up the project and providing infrastructure.

Several international firms, including holding companies from Britain, France, Germany and Italy as well as Japan, are reportedly discussing participation in the industrial parks with

### the Palestinian National would invest would be hotels and tourism transport Authority. Sri Lanka to send delegation

for trade, investment talks

AMMAN (Petra) - The government of Sri Lanka has said it is eager to participate in an active capacity in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference in October and said that it will send a delegation to Jordan soon to discuss the promotioo of bilateral trade.

Sri Lanka's consul general in Jordan Tawfiq Abu Khajeel said Saturday that the Sci Lankan government had expressed interest in launch. ing joint investment projects. and increasing its volume of trade with the Kingdom.

To initiate its participation in the October conference is despatching a delegation peace era in the region.

to Jordan today to discuss a oumber of topics with Jordanian government officials and the private sector, said Mr. Abu Khajeel. The delegation, which

groups representatives of the Sri Lankan corporation for national exports and exporters of vegetables and fruits, is expected to crown the talks in Amman with the cenclusion of a protocel on hilateral cooperation on trades especially in the exchange of agricultural

Mr. Abu Khajeel said that the delegation's visit comes at a time when the Kingdom is witnessing increased the Sri Lankan government. investments in view of the Jordanian Perspective,' said poor countries of the Sonth should stand

consideration the social and religious concerns of their countries. the seminar, supported Dr. Sweiss' stand.

No one in the andience defcoded the draft declaration. Most of those attending stroogly condemned the of attempting to impose western norms on the rest of

"France forces females who chose to wear the veil to remove it, so where is freedom of expression in the asked Mustafa

Some attendees even called for the boycott of the

Bnt Dr. Sweiss argued that participating in this conference does have its purpose in that it allows for vocal opposition of policies based on western coocepts of jus-

tice and freedom. In reply to a comment made by an attendee that women enjoyed full rights in the Arab world, Dr. Sweiss firmly said the status of the Jordanian women was 'very painfal' and that one should

not ignore that fact. "We claim to be a civilised society, but we still hold backward ideas regarding women," he said. -

The declaration and resolutions of the Beijing confer-000 people worldwide, are not obligatory policies to be imposed on people by their governments.

The success of the international conference depends

National report is ready for Beijing lations on women and remove all forms of discrim-

ination against them. Princess Basma said that women's participation in the event reflects the great awareness among women on their growing roles in society and reflects the implied consent of world nations to integrating women in the process of socio-economic development and the expansion of women's participain decision-making tion capacities.

The Princess will address a press conference Sunday at the Queen Alia Fond for Social Development to further discuss the Beijing Conference at which she is expected to declare the Jordanian position with regard to the international draft declaration prepared for Bei-

# Seminar speakers say Beijing declaration imposes western views on Third World women

By Lola Keilani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (Petra) — The

Jordanian team to the Bei-

jing World Conference on

Women has prepared a com-

prehensive national report

that contains ideas and pro-

posals to be submitted to the

participants in the 10-day

meeting in September, Her

Royal Highness Princess

Basma announced Saturday.

In an interview with the

New China News Agency,

the Princess said that the

report had been submitted to

all official and private

with women issues in Jordan

and had been debated at all

levels before its endorse-

A copy of the report, she

added, has been sent to the

U.N. Economic and Social

Commission for Western

Asia (ESCWA) which is

authorised to follow up on

concerned

organisations

AMMAN - The draft declaration for the Fourth Conference on Women to be held in Beijing is an attempt by the rich countries of the North (developed nations) to impose the "law of the jungle" on the rest of the world, said buman tights' activist Suleiman Sweiss on Wednesday at a seminar at the Abdel Hameed Shoman

Foundation. The draft declaration, coosisting of 170 pages, to be discussed at the Beijing Conference on Women between Sept. 4 and 15, was announced by the Central Committeee for Women at the United Nations which serves as the preparatory committee for the confer

The draft declaration is the conference will be working

Dr. Sweiss, talking during the seminar entitled The Declaration for the Fourth Conference on Women: A

west?" (less developed communies) strongly seminar against this draft, which does not respect or take joto

Human rights' activist Subair Tal, also speaking at

"Not only is the draft based oo western liberal thought that reflects western cultural concepts on women but it mistakenly thinks that women are the 'angels of salvation," she said. "Even if women had a larger role to play in politics the world is not necessarily going to be a better place to live in."

the world.

on the "willingness" and "generosity" of governments Kurma, an observer at the to implement them, said Dr. Sweiss.

Dr. Sweiss sees conference resolutions as eventually entire Beijing conference. being oo more than "ink on paper.

He also criticised the draft declaration for its deliberate oversight of the traditional concept of heterosexual marriage.

Dr. Sweiss foresees a clash betweeo Asia, Latin America and Africa against countries of the North over issues such as homosexual practices, general sexual practices and abortion.

Dr. Sweiss said he disagreed with segments of the draft resolution which claims that the salvation of women lies in bettering their financial circumstances.

He believes the answer is nomic relations between the South and North that are not based upon the powerwielded exploitation of less developed economies and societies.

# U.N. to organise seminar for MENA investors

effort to lend support to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference scheduled for October in

AMMAN (Petra) — In an Amman, the United Nations will organise a seminar for foreign investors and representatives of firms and factories from participating countries to help in the coordination of common ventires, according to Jorgen Lissner, resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Jordan.

Mr. Lissner told a press gathering at his office Satur-day that the UNDP and the

United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) have made plans for the seminar to which they will submit a list of projects on industries that include pharmaceutical, food and textile, chemical, engineering and construction, furniture and electron-

Hc said that each of these industries will have a capital ranging between JD 500,000 and JD 10 million.

to meet with ns especially

because Cuban officials

have for a long time been

interested in action against

the disease, and we were

pleased to be informed of -

the fruitful outcome reached

from years of scientific research by Cuban experts,"

"I have sought the society

to share important informa-

tion with its members con-

cerning the disease," said

Mr. Abascal, who resides in

During the meeting which

took place on Ang. 19, the

ambassador expressed satis-

faction that such an "uncom-

the Cuban Finlay Institute for Research and Production

Mrs. Masri added.

Damascus.

Mr. Lissner said that the UNDP and UNIDO have selected a number of local companies and institutions as prime partners to work with foreign companies intending to invest in regional projects.

An international team of experts will, in the next three weeks, conduct a performance assessment of selected companies and will prepare a comprehensive plan of projects, be said.



UNDP Representative Jorgen Lissner Saturday addresses a press gathering on the organisation of the investors' seminar (Petra photo)

# Anti-meningitis society finds common agenda with Cuba

By Rima Cortbawi Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — During a twoday visit to Jordan last week, Emesto Gomez Abascal, non-resident ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba in Jordan, met with Jordanian members of the anti-meningitis society to establish a common agenda of efforts for the eradication of the disease.

"I have recently contacted the anti-meningitis committee to arrange for this meeting in order to ensure collaboration with Cuba in the fight against meningitis," Mr. Ahascal told the Jordan

Since the start-up of the society, which was founded by artist Sana' Masri who suffered a family tragedy because of meningitis, this anti-meninghis campaign has earned focused attention both from the media and the public. "In fact, the ambassador

promising" disease should be given attention in Jordan and talked about the Cuban experience with meningitis. According to Mr. Abascal, years of research and studies culminated in the production, during the late 80s, of the first effective vaccine in the world against B meningococcal disease by

first learned of our existence of Sera and Vaccines. There are nine different from an article that was pubtypes of bacteria causing lished in the Jordan Times on June 29." said Mrs. Masri. "This prompted him meningococcal meningitis, according to paediatrician Issam Khawaja, but types A, B and C are pathogenic (disease-inducing).

Protection against types A and C can be granted in different countries because effective vaccines have been manufactured for many years, Dr. Khawaja said. However, until Cuba suc-

cessfully produced the vaccine to fight type B bags, no vaccine could counteract the effect of these harmful micro-organisms, acording to Dr. Khawaja. The vaccine, which was

granted the World Intellectual Property Oranisation (WIPO) Gold Medal Award in 1990 has the greatest capacity to act in human beings against both meningococcal groups B

It has, according to the Institute, been proven efficient against C meningococcal disease in children under the age of two, and has shown no adverse effects in the millions of doses that were applied so far.

The vaccine, said Dr. Khawaja, meets World Health Organisation (WHO) requirements and has been approved by the Cnban national authorities. "The vaccine bas showo

positive results in countries like Brazil, Venezuela; Colombia and Ecuador," Dr. Khawaja said.

In an earlier visit to Jordan, the arabassador met with health minister Aref Batayneh to discuss, among other things, possibilities of introducing the vaccine to Jordan either by trade or the transfer of the technology required for its manufacture, said Dr. Khawaja.

The ministry, however, is still studying the vaccine and considering the need to introduce it to Jordan, he added.

"I believe meningococcus B to be common in Jordan, therefore such a vaccine would be very beneficial for health care." said Dr. Khawaja.

So far, meningococcus immunisation in Jordan is available in the form of vaccines against meningococcal groups A and C, said Omar Ahu Yousef, medical representative of the Pasteur Merieux Institute here.

These are administered to people in large crowds due to the endemic nature of these micro-organisms, Mr. Abu Yousef continued. No protection against the B group can be provided yet, however.

The Cuhan vaccine, said. Dr. Khawaja, is indicated for active immunisation of adults and children over three months, against gronps, B and C meningococcus and is particularly recommended. for high risk groups such as people living in closed communities, military camps, boarding schools or persons in contact with sufferers from the disease.

Efforts in future will be directed towards maintaining collaboration between Cuba and the anti-meningitis society here," said Mr. Abas-

As soon as the society gains the promised approval of the Ministry of Development, according to Mrs. Masri, work will be intensified to belp protect Jordanians from the meningitis dis-

This work will include increasing awareness by conducting seminars and preparing informative programmes on radio, televi-

farm

ago, five years ago he day and now as a real ago and now as a real ago are losing. Amenda unies are losing. mies are losing" Hoke, a Republic Ohio, also met man f the private developed and reconstruction for re which is proming rulti-billion-doll n uction of the m. red Beirut city can at work should be to nt by American on es. There in ndous opportunit

on projects have be ted at 15 billion t with major contra со Ентореал совых stinghouse should ng power plants. The hould be doing it : company from la ivil war ended in M peatedly dismissely

receive aper say

Hassan, who was in

Garbo

at auction

memorabilia sold

ROCKPORT, Maine (AP)

- Greta Garbo's 1925 date

book went for \$4,400 Friday,

as the largest privately owned

collection of Garbo memor-

abilia to be sold went up for

auction. Other notable sale

items included the reclusive

film star's 1925 signed con-

tract with Metro Goldwyn

Mayer, which sold for \$3,850

and ber Swedisb passport

from the same year, which

hrought \$3,700. The items

were sold by James D. Julia

at his annual end-of-summer

auction at the Samonset Re-

sort. The Garbo collection

was more than 100 items.

including photographs from

the films Queen Christina.

Anna Karenina and The

Painted Veil. The total hrought hy the Garho collec-

tion was not immediately

available. Garbo died in 1990

at age 84. One of the bidders

Friday was Dr. Donald Reis-

feld of New Jersey, whose

wife is Garho's niece and 'sir

Gray Reisfeld. He b .ght several photographs. Acis-

feld said he believed some of

the auction items may have

been stolen in a break-in at

Garbo's home in California

many years ago. Julia denied that, and said all the items had been bought by the pre-

vious owner from a reputable

firm. Ahout 150 people

attended the auction, which

Julia advertised world-wide,

including in the Swedish press.

in the show business news-

paper Variety and in the New York Times.

Extremists in the camps

warn returnees they will be

choked to death because

there is no space in Rwanda's

prisons. The jails are stuffed with 50,000 Hntu inmates,

accused of genocide and

other crimes. Amputations

from gangrene are common-

men, among the 200 refugees who agreed to leave Friday,

questioned and detained at

Nkamera Camp, 20 kilometres inside Rwanda,

where the returnees are being

screened by Rwandan an-

Diplomats say Zaire's

warning to the refugees has

yet to be followed through

with real action against the

trouhlemakers — countless murderers who live amongst

Zaire so far has left un-

touched the military camps of the 40,000 refugees in the

former Rwandan government

A top Zairean general

Baramoto Kpama, revealed

sympathy for the extremists

during a visit to Goma town

"Have you ever seen any-thing had in their camps?

We're still brothers. We're

not enemies," he told repor-

ters when asked if Zairean

troops would start expelling

the refugees.

army, the FAR.

this week.

Reporters saw at least 30

GOMA, Zaire (R) — A voluntary U.N. repatriation plan, negotiated, to end Zaire's forced expulsions of thousands of Rwandan Hntu refugees, came to a virtual balt Saturday when fewer , tban two dozen people agreed to go home.

· Three empty U.N. trucks and a bus waited outside Goma's sprawling Mngunga camp all morning but no refugees showed np.

Earlier Saturday, only 20 refugees from Minguiga and a mere two from the nearby Lac Vert Camp boarded U.N. vehicles to return, U.N. refugee agency (UNHCR) officials said.

"The refugees are tired. They need time," UNHCR repatriation officer Ivan Sturm said.

Over a million Hntus fled to Zaire from Rwanda last year, fearing the Tutsi-led Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) which seized power in July would take revenge for the genocide of up to a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus in the previous two

Zaire began the forced ex-pulsions after complaining for months the international community was not doing enough to belp it shoulder the refugee burden.
The U.N. has to speed up

the voluntary returns among the one million Hutu re-

:Wu vows

to return

to China

MILPITAS, Calif, (R) - Hu-

man rights activist Harry Wu,

expelled by the Chinese after

two months of detention and

a spying conviction : said that

he intends to return to China

someday.
"This is the place I was

born. This is the place I want

to die. Of course I will go

back," Mr. Wu said in an

interview with Reuters. "I

have my blood, my tears in

"The government won't

welcome me, (hut) that

doesn't mean the government

with last forever," said Mr.

Wa, who previously spent 19

gears in Chinese labour

Mr. Wu was adamant that

be would go on with his

struggle to end alleged hu-

man rights abuses in China's

(There is) no way for me to

give up or withdraw a single

Mr. Wu said be is commit-

ted to returning to China one day. He said Chinese author-

ities would jail him again if he

Earlier, at a news confer-

ence in the living room of his California home, Mr. Wn de-

scribed the harsh conditions

of his imprisonment, how be

had been denied medicine for

a hack injury and how he

avoided thinking of his wife

or his home because it would

Mr. Wu looked weak and

cmotionally drained after his

imprisonment, which became

a high-profile irritant to Sino-U.S. relations.

Mr. Wu, 58, a naturalised

U.S. citizen who angered

China by documenting

charges of human rights

abuses in Chinese lahour

camps, was expelled hours

after a court convicted him of

spying and sentenced him to 15 years imprisonment. He

arrived in San Francisco

Thursday night from Sban-

of his two months in deten-

tion isolated in a 10 foot by 12

foot (3 metre by 3.6 metre)

Mr. Wu said that when he

was reunited with his wife

Ching Lee, he asked her to

remarry him. "I confessed to

my wife: 'I didn't think about

you a lot because thinking a

He said he told himself:

"Don't think about it. I don't

have a family. I don't have

good things outside. I have to

A charge of espionage can

Mr. Wu also said he plan-

carry the death penalty in

ned to go on bringer strike if

Chinese authorities carried

out any of the prison sent-

ence against him. "That's the

only choice: Freedom or

His expulsion opened the

way for first lady Hillary

Rodham Clinton to attend a

U.N. conference on women

in China early next month.

spent 19 years in Chinese

labour camps, said he be-

lieved that if be bad not been

an American, he would bave

"disappeared" in China.

Mr. Wu, who previously

death," he said.

prepare for my death."

lot I would go mad."

room.

Chima

Mr. Wu said he spent most

have driven him mad.

he said.

did return.

"The fight is continuing.

the Chinese soil.'

fugees inside Zaire, baving agreed to intervene in order to persuade Zaire to suspend its evictions.

UNHCR officials fear Zaire may send in the troops again if it is not satisfied with the pace of returns. But this was seen as unlikely before talks due Monday in Kinshasa between UNHCR bead Sadako Ogata and Zairean Prime Minister Kengo Wa Dondo.

Zaire's expulsions dumped 15,000 refugees along Rwanda's borders over four days before they were suspended Thursday.

But the voluntary U.N.

programme has only been able to send bome some 250

since it began Friday.

Despite the tiny trickle of returnees, some UNHCR officials insisted there was a pro-return momentum. Patrick De Souza, the agency's head in the Bukavu area said he was "very optimistic" that 3,000 Hutus would agree to leave in a convoy Monday.

The Kigali government, rejecting calls to share power with Hutu exiles, says it will never negotiate with killers. The refugees have few friends left. The international community does not want to pay for their stay in the region any longer. The start of the mass exodus was warmly

greeted in the Zairean capital Kinshasa and in Goma town.

Rwandan Hutu militiamen

say they prefer to risk death in Zaire rather than return to imprisonment or execution in Rwanda.

Meanwhile, the Londonbased human rights group Africa Rights said Saturday thonsands of Rwandan women played an active role m last year's genocide in their country, killing, looting and stripping the dead of valn-

"Women and girls in their teens joined the crowds that surrounded churches, hospitals and other places of refuge, wielding machetes, nail-studded clubs and spears," African Rights said in a report based on eyewitness Testimony.

"They excelled as 'cheerleaders' of the genocide, singing and ululating the killers into action," it said. "They entered churches, schools, football stadiums and hospit-als to finish off the wounded, hacking women, children and even men to death."

The human rights group said many of these women are now in refugee camps in Zaire and are refusing to return home "precisely because they are mass murderers who will be, and must be, judged for their crimes."

African Rights said women from all walks of life took part in the killings - from government ministers, civil servants, local government

journalists to students. bousewives, domestic servants, traders and nuns.

Women working for local non-governmental organisations and international agencies in Rwanda were also mvolved, it said.

"The extent to which women took an active role in the killings is unprecedented anywhere in the world.

The architects of the holocaust sought to involve as much of the population as possible - men, women and even children as young as eight," the report said. They set out to create a natinn of extremists bound together by the blood of

African Rights said many of the women took their children with them on their "killing sprees" while other women enlisted their children to help them loot the dead. Pauline Nyiramasuhuko,

minister for women and the family at the time of the massacres, was among sever-al priminent Rwandan women named by African Rights as an "organiser" of the killings. 'She regularly visited

places where refugees had been congregated and personally supervised the selection of hundreds of Tutsi men for the slaughterhouse," the re-

U.S. hold

China,

# U.S. first lady Hillary Clinton arrives at Yellowstone National Park with her husband U.S. President Bill Clinton and their

# Storm catches Clintons in Yellowstone back country

NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. (R) — As hlack clouds boiled across a nearby ridgeline and thunder rumbled overhead, President Bill Clinton, on holiday with his family, led a hiking party up a steep trail-

to see the gray wolves reintroduced here last January.
The storm hit just as Mr.
Clinton, his wife Hillary,
daughter Chelsea and her friend Rebecca reached a pen where an adult she-wolf and five cubs were getting accustomed to their new habitat, with the help of some buffalo

Pea-sized hailstones fell, then a pelting cold rain and lightning crackling close

by.

Mr. Clinton and his party initially took shelter under a tree until a park ranger gently suggested that this was not a good idea.

"I went to visit the wolves and I got killed by hail. God, are they beautiful," Mr. Clinton said after the storm let up enough to let him and his entourage return to a campsite that served as the landing zone for their helicopter.

Mr. Clinton's all-day Friday visit to Yellowstone, the oldest U.S. national park, was not for the faint-bearted obysically unfit.

hectare) park.

drson Mountain will pollute rivers and streams in a section of Yellowstone that is

hnme to grizzly hears,

flash of light, apparently

minated the night sky in a

400-mile (650 kilometre)

swath over Ontario and parts

of the United States from

trek, he made a belicopter tour of the proposed site of a Canadian-owned gold mine on the northeastern edge of the 2.2 million acre (89,000

Before his rain-soaked

Environmentalists fear waste from the mine on Henmoose, big-horn sheep and other species. They say the mine will also disrupt visitor use of that part of the park and barm the

economy of small rural towns nearby. Mr. Clinton, the ninth president to visit Yellow-

stone, apparently agreed. "I saw thousands of people

today, ordinary Americans, taking their children through this park, people who could never - a lot of them, I imagine - never afford to go to any kind of private resort or private reserve or anything else," he said, referring to the crowds he saw at the famed "Old Faithful" geyser.

"This (park) is a big part of their lives, and it seems to me that one of my most fundamental responsibilities is to make sure it's still around for their children."

Mr. Clinton announced a two-year moritorium on mining claims on 4,500 acres of federally-owned land on the perimeter of the park. While his action does not affect the New World Mine itself, it would limit its growth, and that was sweet music for environmentalists.

"It's another nail in the coffin of this mine, and should send a message to the mining syndicate to go back bome to Canada," said Tom Cassidy of the American Riv-

crs environmental group. On Saturday, the president and Mrs. Clinton planned to mark the 75th anniversary of ratification of the 19th amendement, which gave women the right to vote. Wyoming was the first state in the union to actually let women cast ballots

### Philippines sex tours draw 25,000

MANILA (R) - Some. 25,000 Australian nationals visit the Philippines every year on sex tours, A Filipino legislator said Friday. Senator Ernesto Herrera said in a statement the figure represents more than a third of the 70,000 Australians who visit the Philippines, and he added that most of them were engaged in child sex while in the country, "We also have documented reports of Britons, Germans and Belgians engaged in the trade and many of them are drawn by the promotional campaigns of both local and foreign sex tour operators," he said. Japanese nationals are also arriving in increasing numbers to the central city of Cebu and Batangas province south of Manila on highly organised sex tours. "For the Japanese, it's bom som and sex attracting them," Sen.
Herrera said. The Philippines

Herrera said. The Philippines British national for lewd behaviour on accusations be fondled two boys in Angeles City north of the capital. Manila also launched a crackdown against prostitution in the city by picking up nearly 700 women and street chil-

### Pornography network smashed in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Police seized 4,556 video cassettes of obscene movies, uncovering what is believed to be the biggest pornography net-work in Malaysia, news re-ports said. Three people were small area of grass and weeds arrested during a raid Saturday on a two-story house in the southern city of Muar, where tapes smuggled from neighbouring countries were copied en masse and distributed nationwide, the reports said. In a separate incident, police raided a 50-room building in Kuala Lumpur Sunday and uncovered the capital's biggest prostitution den, Zakaria Muhammad of the Criminal Investigation Department said. Five clients and two caretakers were arrested but dozens of prostitutes, mostly Thais, escaped, he told reporters. The incidents highlighted the profusion of smut in Malaysia despite a ban on pornography and prostitution in keeping with its conservative. Muslim-dominated society. Pornographic tapes are freely available in retail outlets for as little as 10 ringgit (\$4) but are sold only to known customers or others they recommend. In Muar, 200 kilometres (I20 miles) south of here, police seized tapes worth more than 250,000 ringgit (\$100,000) in the black market, the Star newspaper said. About 1,000 pictures of naked women to be pasted on video jackets also were seized, the New Straits Times reported. It quoted a senior police official, Mohammad Bashir Niamat Ali, as saying that the tapes were produced abroad, probably in Hong Kong.

### Colombia rebels kidnap British official LONDON (R) - Britain BBC World Service radio spokesman.

said Saturday it is doing all it can to secure the release of a British diplomat in Colombia who is reported to have been kidnapped by left-wing guer-The Fnreign Office identi-

fied the diplomat as Timothy Cowley, an assistant to the defence attache at the British embassy in the Colombian capital Bngota.

We are doing all we can to secure his return," said a

"This is unfortunately a very common occurrence in Colombia. He was unfortun-

The spokesman was unable to give any details about Mr. Cowley's captors and could not say whether any demands had been made. "Our position with ran-

soms is well-known --- we don't pay them," said the said Mr. Cowley was abducted by left-wing guerni-las at a roadblock in southwest Colombia two weeks A BBC correspondent in

Bogota said the abduction had been kept quiet while negotiations were attempted, but the information was released by a senior Colombian army officer during a television interview on Friday

### New York fire brought under control RIVERHEAD, New York had 19 days without rain, and houses, a lumberyard and a

(R) — Brush fires in Long Island's fashionable Hamptons were brought under control by firefighters who battled the blazes on the ground as helicopters and cropdusters dropped water from the

"The fire is under con-trol," said Tim Ryan, spokesman for Suffolk County executive Robert Gaffney. "This does not mean that

the problem is over. We have Thursday, destroyed eight

everything is as dry as a tinderbox," said Mr. Ryan. Six fixed-wing planes drop-

ping up to 400 gallons (1,500 litres) of water per trip, and two Cbinook belicopters which can drop 1,000 gallons (3,800 litres), bave been fighting the blaze and more reinforcements were expected.

railroad station, injured 40 firefighters and drove bundreds of people from their homes.

New York Governor George Pataki, who said the fire in the region of Eastport and Westhampton was the state's worst in 60 years, declared a state of emergency, prompting a quick pledge of federal assistance from President Bill Clinton.

# Rushdie regrets converting to Islam

LONDON (AFP) — British author Salman Rushdie, who is under an Iranian death sentence, tald Saturday's Times newspaper that his conversion to Islam was "the

biggest mistake of my life." "At the time, I was trying to protect The Satanic Verses as the work of someone who really knew Islam," he told the paper. "But it was wrong, because I don't believe in God, so I should not have suggested that I did."

Mr. Rushdie converted in 1990 to Islam, the faith he had ahandoned as a teenager, a year after the religious decree, or fatwa, was issued by the late Iranian leader Ayatollab Rnhollah Khnmeini against him for The Satanic Verses, regarded as blaspbemous by many He was speaking to the

Times ahead of the September launch of his latest novel, The Moor's Last Sigh, a tale of love and money, dreams and lost opportunities within an Indian dynasty. Speaking of his life since

the fatwa was announced, he said he had changed his residence some 30 times since 1989 in order to bide from the people (who) have been sent in Britain to assassinate me.` He added that it "has al-

ways and only been the Iranian gnvernment" hehind planned attempts on his life.

Two members of the Iranian embassy and a student were eventually deported from Britain in connectinn with bis case, he told the paper.
"There was evidence that

they had been sniffing around, gathering information about my movements,' he said.

"As far as we know, the (Iranian) embassies in France and Germany are the conduit for instructions from Tehran ahnut my possible assassination," he added.

The 48-year-old author. who was born in Bomhay and became a British citizen in 1964, told the Times that writing The Moor's Last Sigh, his first novel since The Satanic Verses, was "a very important step for me."

"I had spent two and a half years talking to politicians. which is not my favourite occupation," he said. "Then I realised it was foolish to let this disagreeable business get in the way of what I love

# Witness: Something wrong with way evidence was handled in Simpson case

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A forensic scientist testified that there was ''something wrong" in the handling of a hlood sample collected near the bodies of O.J. Simpson's ex-wife and her friend.

Henry Lee, testifying for the defence, said Friday that inexplicable blood smudges were found on the inside of paper packaging that held what were supposed to be dry blood samples.

"There may be reason to explain it," Mr. Lee told iurors. "I don't know."

The testimony bolstered the defence's theory of evidence tampering in the police crime lab. The blood sample found in Nicole Brown Simpson's walkway at ber condo contains Simpson's genetic markers, tests bave shown.

The blood, collected the day the bodies were found on June 13, 1994, was sopped np onto tiny cotton swatches, which were left in a lab cabinet to dry overnight before they were put in a paper fore they were put in a paper packet, called a bindle. Mr. a giant picture of the blood-stained bindle, he conducted

Lee said such swatches should be dry after that much time, raising the question of how a damp swatch ended up in the packaging.

"The only opininn I can give under these circumstances: Something wrong, said Mr. Lee, who returns to court Monday for crossexamination.

Defence lawyer Barry Scheck cited previous testimony from police criminalists, who said the swatches had dried and would not bave been placed in the bindle if they were still wet.

Superior Court Judge Lance Ito barred Mr. Lee from describing a blooddrying experiment designed to reinforce his testimony, saying it didn't duplicate the conditions under which the

Mr. Lee, considered

America's top forensic scien-

tist, didn't need the experi-

ment to make his point. With

talks about police brutality and repeatedly uses the word evidence was stored.

a show-and-tell demonstration with monster swatches and a picture on a magnetic Asked what was wrong

with the stain pattern ou the bindle, Mr. Lee replied that there were seven swatches hut only four stains. "If seven swatches were

wet, I should see seven trans-fers," he said. "I only see four. The numbers don't add The testimony completed a week that was dominated by

developments outside the jury's presence, most of them involving the Mark Fuhrman On the tapes, recorded be-tween 1985-94, the detective

"nigger."
Mr. Fubrman, who said he found a bloody glove on Simpson's property, testified at the trial that he hadn't used the word in the last 10 years. The defence claims be is a racist capable of planting evidence.

### 'frank, open' talks BEIJING (R) - U.S. Under-Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff began fencemending talks Saturday with

Chinese Foreign Ministry officials in Beijing and diplomats described the first meeting as frank and constructive. Mr. Tarnoff held 3-1/2 hours of talks with Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing at the Beijing State

Guesthouse at the start of a

two-day visit in the capital aimed at warming chilly Sino-U.S. relations. Mr. Tarnoff flew into the central city of Shanghar late Thursday just as Chinese police expelled U.S. buman-rights activist Harry Wu after sentencing him to 15 years on charges of spying and stealing

had become a major irritant to already troubled Sino-U.S. ties and diplomats said his release had been carefully timed to remove an impediment and put the ball in Washington's court to improve relations before Mr.

Tarnoff arrived. "The discussions principally focused on hilateral issues," a U.S. embassy spokesman said of Saturday's meeting. 'The talks were beld in a frank, open and

constructive manner.' Mr. Tarnoff was due to meet Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen Sunday and to attend a dinner to be held by the Foreign Affairs Office of the State Council, China's cabinet.

China says relations with the United States bave plunged to their lowest point since they were established 16 years ago and the Xinhua News Agency attacked U.S. media reports that it said vilified China as a "new evil empire".

China was enraged when U.S. President Bill Clinton allowed a private visit by President Lee Teng-Hui of rival Taiwan last June in a move Beijing regarded as the start of tacit U.S. recognition of the island as an independent entity.
China has viewed Taiwan

as a rebel province since the end of a civil war in 1949. Beijing's Communist rulers and Taiwan's nationalist government both say they want reunification but on very different terms.

Beijing has demanded a formal gnarantee from Washington it will not allow any more such visits, a demand to which, U.S. officials say privately, Washington would not be willing to bow. Mr. Tarnoff was expected to reiterate U.S. recognition

of China but was unlikely to

give the guarantee Beijing

visit to Beijing for next

month's United Nations

World Conference on

The expulsion of Mr. Wn. who had campaigned against "It's not impossible, but China's secretive, sprawling it's highly unlikely," he said. prison system for years, opened a deadlock that enabled U.S. first lady Hillary Recibam Cimon to announce she would go abead with a

Michigan to New York state. Police in Windsor, Ontario, just east of Detroit, said they believe a chunk of the metenr slammed into a vacant mobile bome, burning it to the ground. No injuries were reported.

But officers scoured the charred remains of the trailer Friday looking for evidence, but couldn't find so much as a rock, Windsor Police Sgt.

Joseph Monteleone said.
"We have nothing to indicate that a meteor hit the trailer," said Staff Sgt. Lloyd Grahame. "We believe it did because it disappeared in. that area, but we can't verify

Peter Brown, a researcher with the University of Western Ontario, said he would be snrprised if the fireball caused the trailer fire, citing the lack of reports of residents hearing a sonic boom and the fact that meteorites are no longer hot when they strike Earth. But he said it was too early, to tell for sure.

"There has never been a substantiated case when a meteor lands and causes a

The trailer was a charred frame, with evidence that something had hit its tin roof and gone through. Two emp-

Meteorite lights up sky in U.S., Canada DETROIT (AP) — A ty trailers next door were tremendons bluisb-green burned slightly, as was a

from a hlazing meteor, illuaround the trailer. Reports placed the time of the flash at between 12:30 and 1 a.m. EDT (0430 and 0500 GMT). Shortly before 1 a.m. (0500 GMT), a Windsor patrol officer sighted "a flaming object moving sonthbound over the skies of Windsor... glowing red with a trail of gases behind it," police Sgt. Ken McFarland

> "It was about the size of an airplane, with an orange tail behind it, and at the top it seemed to have a crown of greenish light," said Joe Stocoo of Liverpool, New York, near Syracuse. "I'd never seen anything that had an orange colour like this before. It was pretty interest-

mg."
The fire at the mobile home — used for storage and located away from occupied homes — was reported shortly afterwards, Detroit radio station WWJ-AM reported. Emergency officials re-

ceived numerous telephone calls from the curious and the worried, including many who thought a plane had crashed. The national weather service in Cleveland said the reports of bright lights "are presumed to be a meteor shower... a typical bappening

in late August." The Coast Guard received calls from Saginaw Bay, abont 100 miles (175 kilometres) north of Detroit, to the St. Lawrence River, abont 400 miles (650 kilometres) to the east.

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tours draw 251 MANILA (R) -25.000 Australian a visit the Philippine year on sex lours, A: legislator said Frida tor Ernesto Herrens statement the figure sents more than a thin 70,000 Australians w the Philippines, and that most of them r. gaged in child sex whe country. "We also documented reports tons, Germans and ! engaged in the tra many of them are it the promotional can of both local and fore Japanese nationals a arriving in increasing bers to the central: Cebu and Batangas # south of Manila on organised sex tours. Japanese, it's both ! sex attracting them. Herrera said. The Phica recently filed a case a British nanonal for le navious on accusance fondled two boys is !: City north of the Manila also launchedi: down against prostite. the city by picking me 700 women and spec

### Pornography network smask in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR Police seized 4,556 vide settes of obscene more covering what is believe the biggest pomograph work in Malaysia, are ports said. Three peop arrested during a raid. day on a two-story be the southern city of where tapes smuggled neighbouring country copied en masse and buted naconwide, the said. In a separate of police raided a x building in Kuala ! Sunday and uncover capital's biggest proseden, Zakaria Moname the Criminal Investig Department said. Fire and two caretakers arrested but dozens di utes, mostly Thais, ne told reporters. lents highlighted the ion of smut in Malije pite a ban on pomos a oan on pour vith its conserve Auslim-dominated ornographic tapes at vailable in retail out s little as 10 ringgi (b) re sold only to know mers or others the B ilometres (120 miles)
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# World News

# Yeltsin's heavyweight foes enter election race

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin's two most consistent political foes entered Russia's parliamentary election race Saturday, vowing eventually to oust him from bower.

The Communist Party and the Derzhava ("great state") Movement headed by former Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi, a leader of an anti-Yeltsin revolt in 1993, held their congresses to define their platforms and leading candidates.

The party aims seriously at winning the election and is ready to take immediate responsibility for the state of affairs in the country," Com-munist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov told delegates from nearly every Russian

According to all opinion polls, the Communists are front-runners for the Dec. 17 poll to the State Duma lower house of parliament.

Mr. Zyugunov said his party would try to amend the constitution to make the government subject to parliament. He did not mention the post of president but his party has said it is opposed to a presidential system in Russia.

Deceived people gave power to this regime and they should take it away by constinutional means," he declared.

Russia bangs over an abyss and pleads for hel." Mr. Zyuganov said. 'The country may be saved only by changing the current political

A well-written election

platform contained simple slogans likely to win sympathy among millions of disenchanted Russians, weary of the hardships of market reforms, surging crime and fall-

ing living standards.

Mr. Zyuganov and other delegates said they would not form any blocs with other parties on the national level but called on other left-wing groupings to work together in individual constituences.

Half of the 450 Duma depaties will be elected in individual constituencies while the rest will be elected from

party lists.
Mr. Yeltsin is showing a keen interest in the election, which is widely expected to be a litmus test for a presidential poll due to be held

Mr. Rutskoi told his supporters his top priority was "to restore great Russia within the boundaries of the former Soviet Union."

The former vice-president led a rebellion in Moscow in 1993 staged by supporters of the Soviet-era parliament which had refused to obey Mr. Yeltsin's order to step down. He spent several months in prison and was then released under an

Mr. Rutskoi's number two on the election list is Viktor Kobelev, a little known politician who is believed to have masterminded a successful election campaign of ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky but broke with him earlier this year,

On the democratic front, Russia's Choice of the former market reform supremo Yegor Gaidar was expected to form an election alliance later Saturday with the Party of Social Democracy led by Alexander Yakovlev.

Mr. Yakovlev, dubbed Mr. Galsnost in the West for his role in Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika policies, is trying a political comeback. Scores of parties take part

in the pre-election battle but all of them are closely watching the latest potentially powerful newcomer - the "Our Home Is Russia" centre-right bloc formed by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdio with Mr. Yeltsin's

blessing. Mr. Chernomyrdin got a boost Saturday when power-ful Moseow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov announced his support to the movement. Mr. Chernomyrdin said

Saturday his movement would fight against extremists who sought to foment an anti-democratic uprising during the election campaign. Opening his coalition's

Moscow ciry branch, Mr. Chernomyrdin said Our Home Is Russia was against those who wished to turn the Dec. 17 parliamentary elections "into the prologue of another 1917" revolution, Interfax News Agency reported.

The coalition would fight against those who tried to get rid of the constitutional pillars of the state, abandon the presidency and redistribute property," he said, adding that the bloc would launch its election campaign in the next few days.

"We must offer the people of Russia, wherever they live, concrete solutions to their problems, since strong economies in the regions mean a strong economy in Russia,"

"We want to win the elections, but not at the cost of the reasonable things we have attained, not at the cost

Mr. Chernomyrdin said the gubernatorial elections in the Sverdlovsk region of the Urals last Sunday proved that Our Home Is Russia "will be judged by how it works rather than by what it promises."
The Russian government

suffered a serious setback last weekend when Eduard Rossel defeated the outgoinggovernor of the industrial Sverdlovsk region, Alexei Strakhov, handpicked by President Boris Yeltsin two

Mr. Strakhov was backed by Our Home Is Russia. Mr. Rossel, who won nearly 60 per cent of the vote, was sacked by Mr. Yeltsin as Sverdlovsk governor in 1993 after he tried to create an autonomous republic of the

Mr. Yeltsin was formerly first secretary of the Communist Party in Sverdlovsk. The region's capital, renamed Yekalerinburg, lies 1,400 kilometres (840 miles) east of Moscow,

# France to hold nuclear tests in S. Pacific despite protesters

PAPEETE, Tahiti (R) -France will conduct a nuclear test even if anti-nuclear protest boats are inside the exclusion zone around Mururoa Atoll or inside the atoll's lagoon itself, the French naval commander of the South Pacific said Friday.

"Our ships are in the lagoon when we have tests and they are totally safe." Vice-Admiral Philippe Euverte told Reuters in an interview in the Tahitian capital, Pape-

Asked whether the explosun would go shead if protest boats were inside the 12 mile (20 kilometres) exclusion zone or lagoon, Adm. Euvene said: "We have no problem with that."

"If there were many ships coming at the same time and we cannot catch all of them. we can perfectly achieve our tests," Adm. Euverie said. "I am not sure a lot of

them have decided to enter the zone," he said, adding he believed the long voyage and rnugh seas would prevent some protest boats from reaching Muturou and leave others too tited to attempt such action.

Greenpeace's flagship Rainbow Warrior is en route to Mururoa to head a protest flotilla of between 20 and 30 boats and has said it will breach the Muruioa exclusion zone.

In July, the Rainbow Warrior attempted to enter the

Murutoa Lagoon and was rammed by a French tug and stormed by commandos. Adm. Euvene said he had

15 ships, including two frigates and three pairol boats. as well as commandos armed with tear gas, to protect the territorial water around France's main test site.

"I will decide on the day how many ships will be used to march the ships present," he said.

However, Adm. Euverie conceded he might have trouble controlling inflatable zodiac boats carrying profes-

Rainbow Warrior launched several such boats in July and was able to get two protesters inside the lagoon and chained to a drilling rig.

The problem with the

zodiacs is if they put them at sea during night time and outside the 12 miles we cannot keep control, we cannot keep them in sight, and it means there is no way we can eatch them when they try to enter," he said.

"If we can catch them before it is better, if we don't see them or the seas are too rough we can wait until they are inside, it doesn't make a difference," he said.

Adm. Euverte said a cable had been placed across the entrance to the Mururoa lagoon after the last altempt to

'The pass is barred." he said.

On Friday, Orcenpeace

enter by Rainbow Warrior.

said it would use a helicopter in its protest at Mururoa to breach the exclusion zone, but gave no details.

But Adm. Euverte plaved down the significance of the t2 mile zone, saying it was the principle of territorial waters that was important.

"We want the principle of French territorial waters to be respected and we will make it be respected, but whether it will be at 12 or eight or four, that's a matter of circumstances," he said. While the French Navy and

Greenpeace shape-up for their confrontation, antinuclear protesters in Tahiti Friday gathered momenium for a peace march Saturday and a major around-theisland rally starting Monday.

But France's top official in Polynesia Friday denied claims by the protesters that the tesis had been posiponed. "All the measures have been taken for the test sequence to be totally executed," said France's High Commissioner for French Polynesia Paul Ronciere.

Speculation on the date of the first of eight nuclear tests suggests Paris will begin the series of detonations within the first few days of Septem-

Mcanwhile, Greenpeace confirmed Friday it would deploy a helicopter off France's Mururoa Atoll nucler blast site in an unpreredented show of force aimed at preventing the resumption of underground tesong in the South Pacific.

Anti-nuclear campaigners aboard the Greenpeace flagship, the Rainbow Warrior II, which is sailing for the atoll from Tahiti, told Reuters the helicopter was aboard the MV Greenpeace, another protest ship also sail-

ing for Mururoa. Greenpeace plans to have a total of four ships deployed off Mururoa by early next month, said Greenneace's international anti-nuclear campaigner Stephanie Mills.

'It (the helicopter) is a different kind of tool." Ms. Mills said, declining to say how it would be used. French authorities in Tahiti have told Greenpeace the helicopter is also excluded from flying within t2 miles (20 kilometres) of the atoll, she

The helicopter, owned by Greenpeace, was last used a few months ago in a daring campaign to prevent Shell of from dumping a disused oil rig in the North Sea. The helicopter dropped two Greenpeace campaigners onto the Brent Spar Rig.

"I really think it (the protest) is the biggest in terms of Greenpeace ships," said another anti-nuclear campaigner. Jean-Luc Thierry. Greenpeace has held protests at the atoll since the early

# Doubts arise over Anglo-Irish summit

LONDON (R) - The British government declined comment Saturday on reports that an Anglo-Irish summit next month may be postponed because of lack of progress towards breaking deadlock on key issues.

A spokesman for Prime Minister John Major said the two governments had not fixed a firm date but were still working on the assumption that Mr. Major and his Irish counterpart, John Bruton. would be meeting some time next month.

He was commenting on re-Dublin did not consider the meeting worthwhile because Britain had failed to announce any new initiative to brreak deadlock in the peace process for Northern Ireland.

The meeting was tentativethe two leaders were expected to announce news to advance the process to coincide with the first anniversary of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrilla truce that launehed peace in the British

province. But senior Irish officials said the summit was in doubt because it scemed unlikely that the two governments would be able to announce anything to break deadlock over British demands that the IRA hand over its weapons.

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) ---

Masked gunmen shor dead

eight lubourers after dragging

them into a shanty town

house in the southern port

city of Karachi Saturday, wit-

Earlier police said the

house and had shot the going on.

assailants bad burst into the

labourers, apparently as they

attackers had arrived in an

alley deep inside the squatter

settlement early in the morn-

ing, firing in the air.
The gunmen, saying they

were policemen, broke into

several houses and rounded

up five people.
They hustled their captives

into a house owned by two

Residents said at least 15

nesses said.

"There is little point in staging the summit on the planned date unless there is something worthwhile to say," a senior Irish official

Britain and Ireland have worked for two years to try to find a lasting solution to the Northern Ireland conflict to reconcile the wish of Protestant Unionists to stay British and Catholic Irish nationalists to be reunited with Ire-

· The two governments say they have managed to settle differences amicably and Irish officials dismissed suggestions that there was now a major rift between Dublin and London or that the summit might have to be cancel-

led altogether. Britain Friday announced an easing of prison remission terms for jailed guerrillas to try to nudge the peace process out of stalemate.

The move was welcomed by the Duhlin government but received only a lukewarm response from Sinn Fein, political arm of the IRA which fought British rule for

British and Irish officials are working on proposals to persuade the IRA and Protestant guerrillas into surrendering their arms and explosives. One formula being

Gunmen kill 8 workers in Karachi

dead, residents said.

staying with them. The eight

men were bound, blindfold

and shoved into a small

room, where they were shot

The gunmen fired again as

they made their escape,

wounding to people who had

come out to see what was

Most of the people in the

area are migram workers

from the small town of

Hazara region of the North

Police said they did not know the motive for the

attack and there was no im-

mediate claim of responsibil-

ity. They refused to confirm

or deny the account given by

West Frontier Province.

al commission be set to deal with the issue.

Britain says Sinn Fein eannot he invited to such talks was quoted as saying in the until the IRA starts dis-Dublin media. arming but Sinn Fein says the issue can unly be discussed at all-party talks, not before

The Irish prime minister is due to visit Canada from Sept. 8 to 16 so any summit might have to be postponed until after his return, Irish officials said. The United States; Friday, welcomed a speech by North-

ern Ireland Secretary Sir Patphased early freedom for some guerrillas, as "another important step forward" in the peace process. "The specific initiatives he

announced... are all significant steps toward reconciliation in Northern Ireland," the State Department said in a written statement.

'As the year anniversary of the ceasefite nears, we urge all parties to continue to build on that important peace and work toward a lasting settlement to the tragic conflict that has cost so many lives," it said.

> The statement noted that many difficult issues remained and said the United States was ready to help in resolving them.

most in their early 20s, had

been shot repeatedly at close

ple, including two policemen,

were killed in separate inci-

The government and the

ethnic Mohajir National Movement (MQM) plan to

resume talks Tuesday to 1ry

to end violence in Karachi

that has cost more than 1,300

The talks have been stalled

since July 31.
The MQM, led by London-

based Altaf Hussain, gets

support from Kurachi's

majority Mohajirs, Urdu-

speaking Muslims who mi-

grated from India at the time

of partition in 1947.

lives this year.

dents in Karachi Friday.

Police said at least six peo-

# Yeltsin hopes for break in Chechen deadlock

GROZNY, Russia (R) President Boris Yeltsin is worried by a deadlock in peace talks with Chechen tebels and hopes his new personal representative, Oleg Lobov, can find a way out, an

official said Saturday. somewhat deadlocked. No one dares make a move in this stalemate," said Valcry Kadzhaya, spokesman for Mr. Lobov, who is a long-time Yeltsin ally and hold the influential post of secretary

of Russia's Security Council.

"Lobov is the very person who can unti the knot without cutting it," Mr. Khadzhaya said in the Chechen capital Grozny.

The post gives Mr. Lobov wide powers to coordinate all Moseow's activities in Chechenya, an historically Muslim, non-Slavic region in the north Caucasus where eight-months of conflict between Russian forces and Chechen separatists have killed thousands of people.

Mr. Lobov's appointment Thursday has the effect of upgrading Mr. Yeltsin's personal involvement in the conflict. Peace talks began two months ago but there bas been no progress on the most sensitive issue - Chechenya's political future.

The rebels want full independence, while Moscow, which sent in thousands of troops last December, insists the region should remain part

But the Chechen rebels, who welcomed the idea of dealing with Mr. Yeltsin's personal representative rather than a more junior delegates, appeared far from optimistic about the Russian president's choice. A senior aide of the rebel

leader Dzhokhar Dudayev said a member of the policymaking Security Council, which had advised Mr. Yeltsin to use force in Chechenya last autumn, could bardly be the right person to negotiate "Lobov is one of those who

started the war, he is one of The Chechen side is deeply disappointed by his appointment," he told reporters in

The peace talks between Russia and separatist rebels launched in June have produced a truce and a military agreement.

signed on July 30 the rebels agreed to lay down their arms in return for a partial withdrawal of Russian troops, sent to Chechenya last December to queli its three-year independence hid.

# Sri Lanka police drive off rebel attack; 58 killed

COLOMBO (Agencies) -Hundreds of rebels attacked a police post in eastern Sri Lanka Saturday but were driven off with heavy losses in a three-hour mortar and machinegnn hattle, army

headquarters said. Two dozen Liberatioo Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerriallas were found dead around the special task force police commando post at Ampilanturai, 12 miles (20 kilometres) south of Batticaloa, the army said.

Military sources told the national news agency that total tebel dead were estimated at 50. Police had monitored radio instructions to the Tigers to fall back taking

their dead with them. Eight police were killed and II wounded in the battle, the agency reported.

Police collected a large stock of guerrilla weapons and ammunition, including machine guns, torpedoes and mortar bombs, after the attack, the news ageocy said. Ampilanturai lies inland from Batticaloa Lagoon, surrounded by flat ricelands.

Police commandos are the only government force on that side of the lagoon since army troops were transferred to boost a bie government offensive in the north.

Of the 800 square miles (2,000 square kilometres) of the Batticaloa administrative

district, 600 square miles (1,500 square kilometres) are now under the control of guereillas fighting for an independent homeland in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, a resident told Reuters.

Tamils make up 18 per cent Sri Lanka's population. They have complained for generations of discrimination in land, language and educatioo by the majority Sinhalese. The war started in 1983 and has killed more than 50,000 people.

The Tigers broke a ceasefire with the government on April 19 after four rounds of peace talks, rejecting government invitations to look at

have since stepped np attacks against the armed forces and civilian targets.

A Tiger suicide bomber earlier this month killed 24 people in Colombo.
Foreign Minister Laksn-man Kadirgamar Friday

ruled out peace talks with the Tigers until they laid down their arms and renounced their calls for a separate

. The latest rebel strike came just hours after top Buddhist monks demanded that the government first de-feat the Tamil Tigers before implementing a peace plan unveiled by President Chandrika Kumaratunga last

# Heavy rains hit S. Korea, 52 killed or missing

SEOUL (R) — At least 36 people have been killed and 16 reported missing as torrential rains lashed South Korea for a fourth day Saturday with no sign of a let-up,

emergency services officials The National Disaster Centre said the death toll since heavy rains struck large parts of the country had risen to 36 with at least to reported missing and feared dead as of

4 p.m. (0700 GMT) Satur-The latest confirmed victims were two people buried by a landslide in Kyongsang

province in the southeast Saturday, an official at the centre said. Earlier in the day a 40-

year-old woman died when her truck overturned in floods in the same province.

the official told Reuters. There has been about 620 millimetres of rainfall recorded in Boryong county, 150 kilometres southwest of Seoul, since early Wednes-

day, the centre said. It said an average of more than 300 mm (12 inches) of

headed for a landfall on the west coast of the peninsula

late Saturday.

"More casualties are expected as downpours continue in some central areas." They had forecast up to

the peninsula.

rain had hit centreal areas. Emergency services offi-cials went on heightened alert as typhoon Janis, moving northeast at 32 kph (20 mph)

more flooding with Janis expected to dump up to 150 mm (six inches) of additional rain on central areas by Sunday, including the capital, Seoul,

250 mm (t0 inches) of rainfall in those areas but latet revised that figures downwards as Janis was found to be weakening as it approached The Han River Flood Con-

trol Centre has issued warnings against possible floods along the river, which bisects

"We barely escaped floods along the river last night," an official at the centre said. "Flooding is unlikely but we

are not completely safe yet,

with the typhoon coming The disaster centre official said police had set up roadblocks in more than 20 districts in the capital since late Friday, including on two main bridges over the Han River, causing extremely heavy

rush-hour traffic. The river overflowed in the summer of 1990 when heavy rainstorm caused extensive

damage. Dozens of schools in the central and eastern provinces of Chungchong and Kangwon were closed because of flood-

More than 11,000 people in rain-stricken areas have been forced to evacuate their homes, the official said.

### Doctors said the dead men. brothers who had a relative Tropical storm passes over Florida

residents.

MIAMI (AP) - The rainy remains of tropical storm Jerry chugged north Friday into Georgia, leaving behind streams for streets in Florida and residents fearing that storms behind it could flood

them again. Meteorologists said the skies in Jerry's wake should clear, at least for the weekend, offering some respite to Naples, which was inundated with morre than 16 inches (41 cms) of rains, and the gulf coast island of Sanibel, which received 15 inches (38 cms).

res of naked women sted on video jack sere seized, the new mes reported office in ior police in ohammad Bashir W. W. it. as saving that the "People were having fun riding jet skis on Periwinkle the resurt island's main thoroughfare, said Chip Hoffman, a concessionaire at the U.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel. "The kids love it. They play in the puddles, Their biggest concern is to watch out for alligators."

Meanwhile, tropical storm Iris threatened Martinique and other Caribbean islands with 50 mph (80 kph) winds. Tropical storm winds extended 160 miles (255 kilometres) from the storm's

centre. Fears of heavy rains and winds along with the possibility of an eruption from a centuries-dormant volcano prompted the guvernment of Montserrat to offer free flights off the 7-by-11 mile (11-by-18 kilometre) island. Hundreds of miles away.

Hurricane Humberto carried

105 mph (168 kph) winds, but

it looked like less of a threat after shifting north deep in the Atlantic At 11 p.m. EDT (0300

GMT Saturday], Humberto was centred about 1,450 miles (2,320 kilometres) west of the Cape Verde Islands off Africa, headed northwest near 14 mph (22,34 kph) and likely to weaken slowly. Iris was about 20 miles (32 kilometres) east of St. Lucia, moving west near 10 mph (10 kph) and expected to hit the

island Saturday. Jerry became the 10th named storm of the 1995 hurricane season, the most active to date in 125 years, when it formed Wednesday off Florida's Atlantic coast. The record for named storms in the six-month season was 21 in 1933.

the authors of the Checken tragedy," said Mr. Dudayev's spokesman Movlen Salamov. "Lobov has shown his commitment to the use of force, he cannot be impartial.

Under the military deal

Grozny.

# الشركة الدولية للفنادق والاسواق التجارية دعوة تأهيل فندق شيراتون Al Dawliyah for HOTELS and MALLS Announces



The near start of construction of its prestigious 5 - star Sheraton Hotel in Amman. The project will be built at the Jabal Amman 5th circle. It will consist of a total area of 38,000 m2.

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during working hours starting Monday August 28th till August 31st, 1995. Deadline for handing in complete prequalification documents shall be Thursday, September 7th, 1995.

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

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# Sanctions are divisible too

A CLOSE SCRUTINY of relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions on Iraq would reveal that there is a strong case for easing or lifting the sanctions imposed on the country on a gradual basis and in proportion to the extent that Baghdad goes to meet its obligations under those resolutions. A case in point is the ability of Iraq to market its oil products when the country fulfils its obligations under the Resolution 687 adopted in 1991.

Operative paragraph 22 of this resolution stipulates that all prohibitions against the export of commodities and products originating in Iraq and all restrictions against financial transactions related thereto as contained in Security Council Resolution 661 (1991) shall have no further force or effect when Baghdad completes all actions envisioned in paragraphs 8,9,10,11,12 and 13 of Resolution 687 and the agreement of the council of the measures called for by paragraph 19 of the same resolution. Obviously what the resolutions mean here is Iraqi oil since it is the singular most important commodity of product originating from the country.

Paragraph 19 mentions the necessary steps that should be undertaken for the purpose of the "Fund" that aims to make compensations to states, parties and individuals with claims against Iraq. As for paragraphs 8,9,10,12, and 13, which Iraq must fulfil in order to lift the sanctions on sale of its oil, they are all related to the destruction of chemicai, biologicai and other mass destruction weapons including their means of delivery and all research programmes related to

The point to make here is that the U.N. has imposed a variety of obligations on the Iraqi regime and that the fulfilment of some, as clearly shown by Resolution 687, will mean and must mean the lifting of the sanctions on the sale of Iraqi oil to the outside world, subject of course to the requirements of the "Fund" that was created to compensate parties with claims against Iraq. In other words, Baghdad's responsibilities for the purpose of the sale of its oil are not related to the other obligations that are stipulated in other resolutions.

While we continue to apply pressure on Iraq to make amends with the international community, we must also remain fair in so far as paying Iraq its dnes.

No less than international legitimacy and the credibility of the U.N. are at stake.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Dustour commented on recent revelations by retired Israeli army officers about mass killings of Egyptian prisoners of war in 1956 and 1967. Mohammad Kawash said that the massacres could well be part of a series of other crimes not yet revealed hy the Israelis who continue to commit atrocities in Palestine. Describing as barbaric the actions of the Israeli army officers who gave the order for killing the prisoners, the writer said that it was surprising that Egypt's protests and demands for investiga-tions to be conducted into this affair were not backed by any part — Arab or foreign. The world has turned a deaf ear to these atrocities but has never failed to support Israel's ongoing repression against the Arab people of Palestine committed in defiance of all international rules, continued the writer. The killing of the prisoners of war should not be condoned but rather exposed as a horrible crime against humanity, and special manufactured by crime against humanity, and special monument should be erected in the same spot where the crimes were committed to stand as an eternal witness to Israel's war crimes, he said. The writer said that not a single Israeli war prisoner have ever been reported killed in all Arab-Israeli wars since

THE PITIABLE conditions in Ruseifa, a city located between Amman and Zarqa and inhabited by quarter of a million people, was the subject of an article published in Al Ra'i daily Saturday. Ahmad Arafat, a columnist, described as miserable the life of the Ruseifa people, who he said do not enjoy basic services like public transportation like other towns and are subjected to pollution resulting from the garbage dump close to residential districts and the falling dust from the defunct phosphate mines in its vicinity. The writer said that the city's children do not have any public parks, the residents have no public library, clubs and the residents can only hope for passing cars commuting between Amman and Zarqa to make their trip to either

Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Not the way to protect consumers

THE WHOLESALE price index, calculated by the Central Bank, rose during the second quarter of 1995 by two percentage points in comparison with the same quarter of 1994. At the same time, the cost of living index, compiled by the Department of Statistics, rose in June 1995 by 2.1

percentage points in comparison with June 1994.

The above figures suggest that the going inflation rate in Jordan, between June 1994 and June 1995, was around 2 per cent. But the National Society for the Protection of

Consumers (NSPC) issued a study claiming that the cost of living in 1995 is 11.8 per cent bigher than in 1994.

A copy of this study was handed to me by the director of NSPC when I was making a testimony during a hearing session held by the joint Judicial and Financial Committees of Parliament, over the tax laws package presented by the government to improve the climate for investments in the country. I chose not to criticise the NSPC's document or write about it because I did not want to participate in its spread, which may cause further damage and confusion. However, one of our daily newspapers, unfortunately, volunteered to print it.

The society has picked up 117 consumer commodities. It compared the average prices of those commodities in 1995. with their average prices in 1994. It found that the prices of 78 commodities rose at an average of 14.3 per cent, the

prices of nine commodities dropped by an average of 13.5 per cent, and the prices of 30 commodities remained the

In its second step the society excluded the 30 commodities with unchanged prices as being neutral. It then went on to calculate the average of price changes of the remaining 87 commodities. It found that the average net change of prices was 11.5 per cent. The conclusion of the study was that the cost of living in Jordan has risen by 11.5

The methodology of this study is a collection of gross errors and compound mistakes. The result was, of course,

First, the study did not mention any dates or places for taking the prices, and whether they were taken from the same places or from different places.

Second, the choice of 117 commodities was not hased on any known criteria. They have nothing to do with the budget of an average Jordanian family, which the society

did not bother to survey.

Third, the study treated the 117 commodities as if they had equal importance to the average family. It simply calculated the arithmetic average without giving a specific weight for each commodity. Thus fuel and baglawa were

treated on equal footing.

Fourth, the researcher excluded the commodities whose prices did not change. For instance, if the price of commodity A rose by 20 per cent, the price of commodity B declined by 2 per cent, and the price of commodity C remained stable, the average is not 9 per cent as the society may conclude, but 6 per cent only. But averaging percentages of price changes without giving relative weights to each commodity is not acceptable.

Fifth, upon checking the list of chosen commodities we found 14 of them representing bygiene paper, eight representing forms of yogurt, and five representing various hrands of soft drinks, which will give these commodities more weight in the study than in the hudget of an average

Sixth, the study neglected many important commodities such as bread, fuel, water and electricity. In fact it totally ignored all services which form at least 25 per cent of the average family hudget, including transportation, medical care other than medicine. education, communication, bouse rents, etc.

It is one thing to make a serious study and another to play recklessly with figures to mislead the public and the decision makers alike.



# Washington believes elements falling in place to topple Iraqi regime

By Jack Redden

AMMAN - Five years after the United States forged the coalition that drove Iraq from Kuwait, Washington may finally have the missing element needed for a strategy to remove Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from pow-

A televised attack on the Iraqi regime this week hy His Majesty King Hussein left Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein more isolated than at any time since he took over as president in 1979. Jordan, in return, finds relations suddenly improving with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, two unrelenting enemies of President Saddam who bave previously refused to forgive King Hussein's neutrality in the

1991 war.
"The cards are all there," one diplomat said in summarising the U.S. position. "How it is just a question of progressing with caution and sensitivity to the local sentiment of all these countries con-

cerned."
U.S. analysts in Washington have said that the United States is looking to Iraq's neighboors to press for President Saddam's removal.

The prospect of change emerged with the Aug. 8 defection to Jordan of members of President Saddam's inner circle - two of his sons-in-law and their

"Now it is just a question of progressing with caution and tions to remove President Saddam. Both elements sensitivity to the local sentiment."

wives — along with his most carefully guarded sec-rets. A guiding hand ever since has been the United

Washington appears to sense the best chance to unseat President Saddam since unsuccessful revolts erupted in Iraq as his army fled in disarray from U.S.-led forces in 1991. Britain, Washington's closest Western ally in Iraq, praised the King's "courageous and

significant" speech.

Although King Hussein did not cut economic ties with Iraq — something Washington would like — he said Jordan was looking for alternatives, such as Saudi Arahia, to its dependence on Iraqi oil in case of a disruption.

The King gave his speech, one of the barshest words he had ever had for the Iraqi leader, after talks with senior U.S. officials touring the Middle East to increase pressure on Presi-dent Saddam.

"There goal was to work with our friends and partners in the region to help in our effort to make sure that we could stand by Jordan," the State Department said

as the U.S. mission ended. Diplomats said the mission, led by Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau, which included talks in Saudi Arabia and

Kuwait, appeared to have mixed success. Saudi Arabia, which sent its intelligence chief to Amman after the defections, seems ready to hury their 1990 differences and restore normal relations. That could include reopening the oil pipeline to Jordan closed when Amman did not agree with Saudi Arahia's policy on bow to reverse Iraq's invasion of

But Kuwaitis, who forced out hundreds of thousands of Jordanian workers after their country was liberated, remained suspicious of U.S. overtures to help Jordan, diplo-

Kuwait.

The King's speech may have been the reassurance Kuwait wanted. "We can consider this as a turning point in Jordan's position towards the Iraqi regime." one Kuwaiti official said.

A Western diplomat said Kuwait had wanted to hear concern about Kuwaitis missing since Iraq's inva-sion and support of sanc-

It is not easy for Jordan to make the break. Popular support for Iraq remains. strong, Jordan is totally dependent on Iraqi oil and there is a fear of Iraqi agents creating trouble.

"They are very nervous - and they should be," said one diplomat.

While not ordering an unpopular closing of the Iraqi border — the King said it would impose extra suffering on people already short of food and medicine — he unequivocally joined those who think it is time for a change.

That message was rein-forced with praise for Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, the key defector and mastermind of Iraq's secret military prog-rammes. The general called from the Royal Court for the overthrow of President Saddam.

Having further isolated President Saddam and in-timidated him with military manoeuvres, Washington's next step is unclear. Iraq, appealing for good rela-tions despite the King's words, appears to fear that Jordan will tightee the eco-

nomic noose.

Following the tilt in theJordanian position towards
the U.S. position on the Iraqi regime, the hope is strange bere that Saddam will not last long.

# 'Mission impossible'

**LETTERS** 

To the Editor:

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE involves the agony of trying to make a telephone call in Amman. Police: stations are filled with telephone sets filing com-plaints against their users for physical abuse. Oh, if only I could find out who is behind the recording on the telephone. I am sure many share this "friendly feeling with me. Anyway, I will not get into details since everybody knows about it, whether they have telephones or not. Rumour has it that this subject has become part of the curriculum at schools and therefore, is compulsory.

With the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit (MENA) on the way, I am sure that the participants would want to make several phone calls here and there. The stock market will be booming through this period, too. Everybody will be expecting positive results and therefore, communication will be a vital factor in ensuring the success of this summit. I do have a recommendation for the authorities to overcome this problem.

It seems that this problem will not be attended to soon, and, in order to save the authorities and Jordan the embarrassment, I would recommend that we use messenger pigeons, the ones our ancestors used when sending their messages from one place to another. These friendly birds will not cost the ministry a penny. Besides, they are pollution free. This way we can ensure that communication is uninterrupted and prove to everyone that this is not mission impossible

This is a reasonable solution for the time being since many have lost faith in the Ministry of ommunications, especially those who paid triple the charge and have been waiting for years for Santa Clause to climb down their chimney with the prom-

Just a thought for the day!

Al Ghazerian, Amman.

# Arafat, Natanyahu and suicide bombers

To the Editor:

ON THE very day on which Israel proudly announced that it had been on the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in the Gaza Strip and Jericho powers to act in eight fields of governmental strip and reflecto powers to be in eight needs of governmental administrative activity (albeit unimportant powers such as postal services, insurance and the like), a suicide bomber, presumably a Palestinian exploded a bomb aboard a Jersualem bus, killing himself (or herself) and five passengers and wounding about 100

other persons.

That same evening, the leader of the opposition in the Israeli Knesset, Benyamin Natanyahu, was interviewed on Israeli television and stated, among other things, that in his opinion the peace negotiations, which the Rabin government is carrying out with the Palestinians, cannot bring about the peace to which Israel aspires. He broadly hinted that if Yasser Arafat, to whom Mr. Rabin is magnanimously turning over authority in Gaza, is unable to put an end to Hamas "terrorist" activities against Israelis, then he probably condones them.

probably condones them.

In all fairness to Mr. Arafat, it must be pointed that all the suicide bombings to date took place inside Israel proper or Israeli controlled territory. It is hardly likely, therefore that the suicide around the waist could have come from the Gaza Strip without being detected by the vigilant and omnipreseot Israeli army in the logical assumption is that the explosive devices were actually Be that as it may, and regardless of the location in which the problem of terrorism cannot be solved by a tightening of the screws on the already beleaguered Yasser Arafat, nor by scrapping do. Such a course of action would only deepen the suspicion and peoples everywhere still feet, particularly in the West Bank, the notwithstanding Israel's peace treaties with these two countries.

In all fairness to Mr. Arafat, it must be proper or Israeli at the suicide bombings are being carried out, the proper of the suicide bombings are being carried out, the screws on the already beleaguered Yasser Arafat, nor by scrapping do. Such a course of action would only deepen the suspicion and peoples everywhere still feet, particularly in the West Bank, the notwithstanding Israel's peace treaties with these two countries. In all the states would in all the governments of its residuent in ing Arab states would in all the governments of its residuent in ing Arab states would in all the governments of its residuent in the suite of the governments of its residuent in the suite of the governments of its residuent in the suite of the governments of its residuent in Israel would do well to remember that no peace treaties which it

Israel would do well to remember that no peace treaties which in Israel would do well to remember that no peace treaties which in ing Arab states would in all probability ensure its cross border security, guarantee its internal security simply because it is internal security controls to the extent necessary to prevent all trespassing on and invading the domaio of personal rights and In my humble opinion, the only course open to Israel, if it and to become an accepted family member of the Arab Moddle governments) that it bas finally discarded its Zionist expansionist its rightful Arab owners. As a first step in that direction, Israel stop putting forward this transparently filmsy excuse in order to more territorial and other concessions from its Arah neighbours.

George Kawar, Advocate,

# U.S., China face rough road ahead

By Sarah Jackson-Han

WASHINGTON — China and the United States took major steps towards easing their strained ties with the release of a jailed Chinese-American activist and the decision to let First Lady Hillary Clinton go to Beij-

But experts agree the two face a rough road as they address outstanding bilateral issues, from buman rights and missile sales to China's stepped-up military manoeuvering and U.S. re-lations with China's bitter

rival, Taiwan. "The stakes are very high," said James Lilley, a former U.S. ambassador to China and currently a fellow at the American Enter-

prise institute here.
"You've got some really
major problems," he said, citing the danger of a regional arms race with successive opgrades of the Chinese arsenal matched by upgrades in U.S. arms sold to Taiwan.

Even as the announce-ment of Mrs. Clinton's trip was being made in Yellow-stone National Park, where the first family was visiting. Under Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff was in Beijing for talks with Chinese officials.

Human rights, trade and economic issues, Taiwan, and China's alleged export of M-11 missiles in violation of an agreement not to sell such technology are all likely to arise in those dis-cussion, State Department officials say.

Mr. Tarnoff "is also trying the lay the ground-work" for additional highlevel contacts, one State Department official said Friday. Those could ioclude a summit between President Bill Clinton and his Chinese counterpart, Jiang Zemin.

They would also include a resumption of military and other exchanges that China broke off in anger after the president of Taiwan was allowed to pay a private U.S. visit in June,

reversing a longstanding ban on U.S. visits of any kind by ranking Taiwan

China, which still claims sovereignty over Taiwan and has never ruled out the use of force to reclaim it. hristles at moves that appear to boister, Taiwan's international standing. Its official press has kept

up a steady attack on Washington for allowing the Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui's visit.

For the last two months however China's detention of Harry Wu, a U.S. citizen and human rights campaigner, on charges of espionage and U.S. efforts to

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and human levels."
Regarding the toleran might chose ders with read or bit and medicine supplied people, this is something meters. minds the King in his speech.

The Irac: regime ceived a biow after thin to Jordan of Liggeneral Hussein Karsan, his

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athority (PNA) in the Gr. ghi fields of government tant powers such as pos-tide bomber, presumith a lersualem bus, kills s and wounding about h

ial in his opinion the pertent is carrying out with fal. to whom Mr. Rabil:

nmes of explosives smip om the Gaza Strip with nipresent Israeli artuv 183 om the distribution of the location is when are being carried out are by a tightering of the location in which are being carried out are being carried out are being carried out are by a tightering of the location in which are being carried out are being carried out are by a tightering of the location in the location of the location in the location ir. realanyane would be leveled by deepen the suspicious vast majority of the larly in the West Bank is well as Jordan and fewer with those two countries. s with these two counts overnments of its neigh lity ensure its cross h urity simply because ic government to tight on necessary to prevent so borders without the mineral rights of the management of the managem ent necessary without the is a shorders without the is a main of personal rights and under the constitute ourse open to Israel, course open to Israel, course open to Arab with peace with the Arab with peace with the Arab with peace of the Arab people (not only a Arab pe

> In explaining its reason for showing the speech the Iraqi TV accompanied it by a short introduction that said: "In

# Features

# Banks allowed to lend, invest in foreign currency

(Continued from page 1)

foreign currency and to withdraw or transfer any part of deposited funds without any

Bankers quoted by Reuters said limiting banks to fixed or floating rate prime bond issues and key government debt bonds with a maximum 10-year maturity was to en-

Banks were restricted to placing foreign exchange holdings in overseas banks, usually utilised in the lower yield Eurodollar deposit mar-

was on a case by-case basis. Banks have to put aside 35 per cent of foreign deposits as compulsory reserves with the Central Bank, Jordan's 21 private banks

ternational capital markets

have a total deposit base of JD 5.512 billion (\$7 billion which include JD 2.070 bil-lion (\$2.9 billion) in foreign currency.

Bankers say the new rules will allow banks to increase their profitability by investing in higher yield debt instru-ments. While placing safe-guards against high risk

"It will give local banks more avenues to invest their

foreign currency holdings... they can now invest them in higher yield instruments." Khaled Al Masri, senior investment supervisor at the Arab Jordan Investment Bank, told Reuters. Mr. Masri said the liberal-

ised rules should make banks more competitive and allow an increased deposit base while affording them higher flexibility in investing surplus non-dinar funds.

Bankers say the new rules also reinstate existing foreign exchange rules that allow free convertibility and repatria-tion of non-resident foreign currency accounts in Jordanian banks,

And with the secent defec-

tion to Jordan of Lieutenant-General Hassan, the U.S. appears more hopeful that its etforts to topple President Saddam will soon bear limit. Washington sees the defection as a major blow to the

Iraqi regime U.S. officials have increased their sabierailling against the Iraqi tegtine since the defection. which they have viewed as significant step towards us temoval Accordingly, the U.S. is more likely to increase the pressure against Baghdad now that it believes its ambition of toppling Piesident Saddam appears closer to realisation than ever.

tion aimed at tightening the noose around the Iraqi government through seeking its further isolation and maintaining the sanctions rather

cracks in the emhargo will start appearing before their official termination. Others say that once Iraq is allowed to sell its oil, it will have the money to achieve a major dent in the embargo with many companies and countries vying for lucrative trade

U.N. said the Security Council will find ways to prevent such an eventuality. Despite clear signs that

France, China and Russia would favour a partial lifting of the sanctinns: Ms. Albright said Friday the U.S.

after Mr. Ekeus reports that his mission has been completed successfully. Washingion will seek to impose strict conditions on how the sales should be conducted with the purpose of keeping the heat

in the Iraqi regime.

The Security Council offered to allow Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil to purchase food and medicine. But the conditions of the resolution's sale would not have allowed Iraq the chance to use the revenues in any way that could lead to breaking the embargo. Itaq terected the offer, just as it earlier turned down to sell \$1.6 billion worth ut oil, un the grounds that the conditions of the sale represented an eneroachment on its soveteignty hecause the U.N., will supervise the revenue of

the salc. Gen. Hassau is said to have pushed for accepting the offers and the Iraqu tegime's insistence on rejecting them was a significant factor in his decision to defect.

The former official said that under pressure from the U.S., the Security Council could insist that Iraq put the uil revenue in an escrow account so that all expenditure is accounted for. The council could also demand that Iraq channel huge amounts of the inl revenue to compensate Ruwait for the war damages and even go as far as denying Iraq the right to a free hand on using the revenue on the grounds that the regime cannot be trusted and still poses a regional threat.

This procedure will have the double objective of ensuing that Iraq does not ohtain goods prohibited under the sanctions and guarding against any hreak ing of the embargo. It will also aim, said observers, at bringing the desired goals of the powers that count at the U.N. mainly the U.S. which is the toppling of President Saddam.

### Clash over rape claim delays UAE killing trial Al 'AIN (AFP) - An Islamic "I am sure the defloration did not coincide with the incident," she added refer-

Friday in the occupied West Bank tuwn of Hebron (AFP photo)

ring to the murder which took place on July 19, 1994.

But another doctor re-

ported that on the day after.

the killing, she saw "wounds in the hymen" uf the girl.

"She was wounded in the right side of the neck, and

also in the vagina," added Vatsalan Sivadas, a gypaecologist from India. "They indicate an attempted sexual assault in the 48 hours prior

Ms. Balabagan, a Muslim,

"suffered a defloration

attempt which did not suc-

ceed," she said, adding that

explained why lab tests had

not found any sperm.

who was then 15.

to the examination."

court on Saturday postponed the case of a teenager Filipina maid facing the death penalty for murder as docturs clashed over whether she had been raped by her victim.

Presiding Judge Mohammad Tatwani adjourned the case in a retrial against Sarah Balabagan, 16, until Wednesday and called new witnesses. Problems arose when a

doctor backtracked on earlier statements that the girl was raped by her United Arab Emirates (UAE) employer, Mohammad Abdullah Al Naloushi.

"The defloration happened at least one week before I examined her" on the day following the rape, Madeleine Aryan, a general practitioner from Egypt, told the court, in Al 'Ain 160, kilometres (60 miles), east of Abu Dhabi.

The prosecution had used the tests to try to cast doubt on Ms. Balabagan's elaim of PLO jails suspects in Jericho

tants hiding there.

Meanwhile the fourth vic-

tim of Monday's suicide

bombing was an Israeli

woman and not a European

tourist as initially believed,

Hanna Nach from Jerusalem,

was identified after police

published a morgue photo-

Five people were killed in

Monday's bus bombing in

Jerusalem. Three of the dead

were quickly identified as two

Israelis and an American,

leaving the badly mutilated

bodies of a man and a

tion that the woman might

have been the bomber, but

that possibility was ruled out

when the Shin Bet security

service caught the attack's

mastermind who, in turn,

identified the assailant as

Police then said the un-

identified victim might have

been European after receiv-

ing reports that a German

tourist was missing. However, the tourist was found later

Nach, who was divorced.

had lived alone in Jeru-

salem's Kiryat Moshe neigh-

bourhood. She was identified

Initially there was specula-

woman.

The vietim, 45-year-old

Israeli Radio reports said.

### build a bouse demolished by (Continued from page I) Israel on Friday after its soldiers killed two Hamas mili-

top bombmaker. Yahva Ayyash — known as "The Engineer" is still at large. The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, is a fierce opponent of the 1993 Israel-PLO peace deal.

Israel and the PLO are believed to be several weeks away from an agreement on implementing the second stage of self-rule - an Israeli troop redeployment in the occupied West Bank and the holding of Palestinian elec-

"I think if we are realistic, one should talk about initialling the agreement between Sept. 3 and 6," Dr. Erekat said in Gaza.

Self-rule was due to have expanded beyond Gaza and Jericho more than a year ago but attacks by militants which killed over 80 Israelis slowed the pace of negotiations. Tayeb Abdul Rahim,

general-secretary of the authority, told Reuters that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat instructed Palestinian negotiations to remain firm in their demand for a significant Israeli troop redeployment in the West Bank city of Heb-

Some 400 Jewish settlers live in the heart of Hebron and Israel wants its troops to remain to protect them. In an act of defiance. Heb-

ron residents collected money and prepared to re-

when her family came forward after seeing the morgue photographs, the radio reports said.

# economic development in the

in the week.

He said technology is elosely connected with educational systems and scientifie research and also with the state's political and economic management stressing that no prosperity or stability can be achieved without interaction between the three elements.

duty to maximise investment in education, scientifie research and development and in giving incentives for creative work involving participa-tion of various official and non-governmental organisations, professional associations and others, the Crown Prince said. He added that such approach would contribute most positively to sociocountry.
Prince Hassan submitted a

five-point plan which he said would help scientists attain their aspired goals: One: Due care should be

given to natural resources and their wise utilisation in the most ideal manner so as to avoid wastage, search for artificial substitutes and increase of production. Two: Development of hu-

man resources which can absorb modern technology and employ it in achieving socio-ceonomic develop-Three: Finding incentives

search and creating the right atmosphere for a solid base for development. Four: Applying the results of research on various aspects

for spending on scientific re-

of development.

stilutions are participating in the conference.

### Algerian militants kill women long as it failed to abide by

(Continued from page 12)

DEMOLITION: An Israeli army bulfdozer demolishes the home where Ibrahim Qawasmeb,

described by Israeli security forces as a member of Hamas, was shot dead by Israeli soldiers on

group called the Islamic Front of the Armed Jihad [FIDA) which specialises in murdering intellectuals. Liberte added.

Malek runs for president

Former Algerian Prime Minister Redha Malek announced on Saturday he would run in November's presidential election and said his priority was to restore order to strife-torn Algeria and oppose religious "terror-Mr. Malek, 64, is the lead-

er of a new party, the National Republican Alliance, which is secular and opposed to Islamie fundamentalism. But he told a press confer-

ence in an Algiers hotel that he was not "the candidate of any party or clan."
He said his first aim was to restore peace after three years of civil strife between

the military-backed govern-ment and Islamic militants. "First, the public order must be restored and the security of citizens guaranteed... today, the Algerian people, in their great majorty, reject the terrorism and the manipulation of (the Isla-

mic) religion," he said. Mr. Malek, prime minister from August 1993 to April 1994, is the seventh and most seriously regarded candidate to come forward to contest the Nov. 16 poll which is opposed by the main political parties, including the former ruling National Liberation

Front (FLN).

He was sacked as prime minister for opposing dia-logue with the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) as

the law.

President Liamine Zeroual, who has not yet announced his own candidaey, says the election will be the first step in a process to restore legitimacy since the aimy-backed government scrapped a 1992 parliamentary election which the FIS was poised to win.

The FLN says, however, the poll will have no significance in the absence of an agreement with FIS, which is panned and has threatened to fight the election with violence.

Speculation over whether Mr. Zeroual will stand in the election was fuelled on Saturday by former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Belaid who told the Constantine-based newspaper Al Acil: "I prefer Zeroual as president of the republic.

In July Mr. Zeroual said a three-month dialogue with the FIS had failed, blaming the fundamentalist leaders' 'intransigence."

Algerian newspapers have said Mr. Malek's candidacy wil give the poll more "credibility" as the six other candidates to come forward so far rans.

Mr. Malek was a member of the High Council of State. a five-person collective body which rreplaced President Chadli Benjedid in 1992.

Mr. Malek, a former ambassador to Washington, London and Paris as well as foreign minister, is wellknown in the international community for mediating between the United States and Iran in the U.S. embassy hostage crisis when he was ambassador to Tehran from 1979 to 1981

# U.S. forces beefed up

(Continued from page I)

telligence services got it wrong causing, confusion in Washington.

"The balloon burst, because the matter was based from the start on false information made up by American intelligence services and broadcast by the Pentagon," the daily Babel said.

Washington announced on Aug. 17 that it had ordered pre-positioned equipment in the region to move closer to Iraq after signalling five weeks of "unusual activity" by the Iraqi military at their main bases.

But five days later U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry admitted the United States had detected "no sign" that Iraq ws preparing to invade its neighbours.

"Perry had to backtrack and deny his own lie. But it won't be Washington's last lie which remains deterrained 10 provoke crises with Ifaq to maintain the embargo," said the paper run by Uday, the son of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Hussein,
"The series of lies shows
the confusion which reigns in
heart of the U.S. administration, due in a large part to
electoral campaigns" for a
presidential poli in 1996.
The United States has

however, assembled 1,400 troops in Kuwait to take part in joint manoeuvres designed 10 deter Iraq from any new invasion of the emirate. The exercises were hastily

brought forward after the defections on Aug. 8 of the former Industry Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan. There was no official reaction meanwhile to reports

that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had offered political asylum to President Sad-But the daily Al

Jumhouriya called on Iragis to ignore foreign media reports that the defections had weakened the government. "The Iraqis are experi-

enced in psychological warfare. They mustn't fall into the trap," a columnist wrole in the government paper.

He said Iraq would win a lifting of the U.N. oil and trade sanctions imposed in August 1990 when it invaded Kuwait since it had now revealed all the secrets of its wcapons programmes.

"We are close to the goal and we have no choice but to resist the armada of hostile media and be convinced that the instability and crises in Iraq talked about by the Americans and Zionists are pure lies."

U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus said Saturday that Baghdad had banded over a large amount of new and valuable information to the U.N. Special Commission on disarming Iraq (UN-SCOM) (see page 2).

# Musa delivers message, discusses Iraqi events

(Continued from page 1) -

offer itself as a base for antiregime activities by Iraqi dissidents and that the granting of asylum to Gen. Hassan, his brother Saddam Kamel, and their wives, both daughters of President Saddam, and a cousin and several Iraqi soldiers did not signal any shift in Jordan's policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other

countries. Foreign Minister Kabarii. saying the issue of Itaq occupied "the bulk" his discussions with Mr. Musa implied that this was the central message given to the Egyptian minister when he answered a reporter's question whether Jordan would aflow Gen. Hassan to Launch anti-Saddam activities from Jordanian ter-

rilory. "This is an issue that concerns the Iraqi people," said Mi. Kabariti. "We in Jordan have repeated several times that Joidan will never be a base against any Arab country," added the minister, noting that Sharif Zeid, in a recent meeting with Parliament, had reaffirmed the Kingdom's policy.

"Joidan has and will always seek to strengthen relations with Arab countries," said Mr. Kahariti. He referred to the success that Jordan. has had since this year in its efforts to improve relations with the Gulf countries, particularly Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The comments by the Jordanian officials and Mr. Musa himself indicated that both sides were playing down an obvious difference in viewpoints over the defection of Gen. Hassan, and the defector's statements that the Iraqi government was contemplating plans to invade Kuwait and Saudi

Atabia. liaq denied the charges and put on a television programme with a recording that it said was the voice of Gen. Hassan uiging Saddam Hussein to invade Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in October 1994. The television also asserted that Hussein Kamel was the lone member of the Revolutionary Command Council who advocated such an approach.

Gen. Hassan dismissed the recording as a fake.

In comments over the weekend, Mr. Mubarak said he doubted Gen. Hassan's statements that Iraq was planning an invasion of Kuwaii and Saudi Arabia. While he welcomed as

courageous King Hussein's speech on Wednesday in which the Monarch eriticised Iraqi policies, the Egyptian president also suggested that the address was politically motivated. It was not immediately

clear whether Mr. Musa's visit here managed to clear the air.

Mr. Muburak said in public comments on Thursday that any change in the Iraqi system was an issue that concerned the people of Iraq and no external forces should meddle in internal Iraqi af-

In arrival comments. M1. Musa echoed his president's words. "I will not discuss anything about hringing down the Iraqi government

since it is an issue that has to be decided by the people of Iraq themselves and not something for me or you to talk about," he said.

However, he said Egypt was concerned over "the suffering of the Iraqi people' and that the Baghdad government should do "whatever possible to eliminate the unfortunate

"We hope that the developments...will allow lraq 10 return to a normal situation and to participate in the Arab march though this has a lot of conditions," said the minister.

"It is certain that the eurrent Iraqi regime has, through its actions, raised many question marks towards its ability to take part in this march." he added.

Despite the public niceties, observers said in private, Egypt appeared to be unhappy by the high-profile political focus on Jordan brought in by King Hussein's decision to grant asylum to the Iraqi defectors.

However, there is no contradiction in the positions of Jordan and Egypt that any change in Iraq was an issue left to the Iraqi people and that external forces should not interfere in internal Iraqi

According to a Jordanian official quoted by Reins.

"though Egypt might not like to see Jordan trying to take an initialive on Iraq because (Egypt) has always liked to be the leader in the region, it cannol but support our ideas because they will be be contracting their fiveyear-old anti-Saddam position."

# ed Fanek

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Al Ghazeria Amman.

udly announced that it is

ne opposition in the laz nerviewed on Israel ide in his speech. in Gaza, is unable to put against Israelis, then ust be pointed that all a side Israel proper or the therefore that the successions

ng on its security needs
thy flimsy excuse in order
ons in the hope of extract
ons from its Arah neighter
as from its Arah neighter George Kan Advocate, Amman.

sure investments were in lesser credit risk instruments.

Investing in bonds and in-

and non-official circles in Jor-

dan is that the United States

will not allow for lifting the

embargo before the toppling

of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, His Majesty King Hussein indicated that much

Wednesday in his address to

the nation in which he criti-

used Iraqi policies. Informed

sources said that Jordan was

given a clear message by Washington that the sanc-

tions will not be lifted before

the Iraqi regime is changed.

They said the message was

conveyed to the Kingdom be-

fore the Aug. 8 defection of

Hussem Kamel Hassan, a top

U.S. will continue on reject-

ing Iraq's claims that it has

met its obligations under

U.N. resolutions, with the

difficulty in proving that it is

respecting the human rights

of all Iraqis providing it with the ground for arguing in favour of keeping the sanc-

The latest indication of the fight that the U.S. will put up

against lifting the sanctions

came Friday when the U.S.

amhassador to the United

Nations, Madeleine Albright,

followed the traditional hard-

line the U.S. adopted to-

wards Iraq in denying Bagh-

dad any credit for revealing

new data about its biological

latest step did more to show

its low credibility than to:

increase the chances for lift-

dibility," said Ms. Alhright.

"it has a very long way to

- Many observers believe

that "long way" will not be

covered before the ousting of

President Suddam and that

the United States has enough

clout and the legal power

through its veto right, to

(Continued from page 1)

that he has nothing to fear,

despite stepped up pressure

from various parties against

shows some confidence."

said one senior official,

adding that it also "gives the impression that the Iraqi

leadership has no reason to

feel threatened, especially

that it was clear in the King's

speech that Jordan will not

take any action to change the

status quo of relations with

Baghdad on the economic

Jordan might close its bor-

ders with Iraq or block food

and medicine supplies to its

people, this is something that

has never erossed our

minds..." the King had said

The Iraqi regime has re-

ceived a blow after the defec-

tion to Jordan of Lieutenant

General Hussein Kamel Has-

san, his brother, Colonel

Saddam Kamel, and their wives. Raghad and Rana, both daughters of President

Saddam. Gen. Hassan not

only disparaged the Iraqi reg-

ime, but also called for its

But analysts say that by

highlighting his faith in his people's "clever reading" of

the King's speech, in which

the Monarch paid tribute to

Gen. Hassan as a man "who

refuses to enjoy what the majority of the Iraqi people

are deprived of, seeking to

save his country and protect

its unity and right to life,"

President Saddam might have

wanted to expose Gen. Has-

san's "betrayal" to the Iraqi

people. Gen. Hassan is be-

lieved to have little credibility

among the majority of Iraqis

who see him as a cornerstone

of the regime they are grow-

to make this man (Gen. Has-

san) look as a traitor who

sold out on his country," said

another Iraqi living in Jor-

It is a tactie Saddam used

ing so intolerant of.

overthrow altogether.

Regarding the talk that

and human levels."

"It is a smart move that

his regime.

'For Iruq to regain its cre-

Ms. Albright said Iraq's

weapons to Mr. Ekeus,

ing the sanctions.

Accordingly, they say, the

Iraqi official.

Sanctions could be eased, but not lifted in short term (Continued from page 1) block the lifting of the embat-The belief among official

That will translate into acthan easing them. But Mr. Sahhaf believes

with and contracts in Iraq. One former official familiar with the works of the

has enough support at the Security Council to maintain If the U.S. comes under pressure to comply with Resolution 687 and lift the embargo on Iraqi od sales

view of our faith in our peo-

ple and the knowledge that (Iraqis) are capable of inter-

pretation and clever reading,

and because of what (the

people) know about the lead-

ership's clear policy in all

spheres, we present to the

Iraqis a recording of the full

Iraqi decision to air King's speech remains a puzzle be laying the groundwork for any contemplated action

against Jordan in retaliation

for its position. "The (Iraqi) leadership would have given legitimacy for any possible action against Jordan by carrying the speech that might be viewed as one directed against Saddam," said a par-

text of King Hussein's Deputy Toujan Faisal said liamentarian. On the other hand, some that, apart from showing con-Iragis said the move simply fidence (by airing the speech), the Iraqi regime boiled down to what they described as "a desperate wanted to give the impression move by a falling-out regime that has run out of options.'

that "hailing someone like Gen. Hussein Kamel was inappropriate and would be re-"Keeping in mind that Sadceived as such by Iraqis." dam does not have much to play on, I believe that this is Others were of the opinion just another little media that rebroadcasting the game aimed at discrediting speech would serve Iraq's in-Gen. Hassan who has shaken terest in that it would give the impression that the Iraqi an already disintegrating system," said one Iraqi. Some politicians, however believe that since the King has made no direct reference

the country.

"It reflects close relations

with Iraq and proves that

they do not want to escalate

tension but rather keep a low profile," said one gov-ernmental source, adding

that il also shows that "Iraqis

But as the official put it:

The leadership in Iraq is so

unpredictable and it is hard

to know what they're think-

ing. In any case the Iraqi

regime might have thought

that there was no way to

prevent Iraqis from hearing

the speech and decided to

take the credit for showing it

themselves."

accept our position."

leadership was moving to-wards democracy, thus hoping to make a positive impact on the issue of lifting the to President Saddam himself. U.N. sanetions, imposed the speech would be peragainst Baghdad since it inceived as a reiteration of Jorvaded Kuwait in 1990, espedan's support for Iraq, and cially with the King saying that the sanctions will not be that carrying it denotes a sign lifted unless the Iraqi leadof goodwill on part of the ership complied fully with all Iraqi leadership and its appreciation of the Jordanian concern for the well-being of

U.N. resolutions. For the sanctions 10 be lifted, the U.N. Security Council demands thar Iraq comply with all ceasefire terms that along with eliminating the country's mass destruction weapons, also inelude humanitarian issues like ensuring human rights,

democracy.... Maybe Saddam thinks that the move would help him look democratie at a time when he is being criticised for bis lack of democracy and for dictatorship," a government

official said. Other analysts have interpreted the move in a much more sceptical manner saying that President Saddam might

Mahdi arrived at his home in Omdurman, the twin city of Sudan's capital Khartoum, before noon.

Thousands of his suppor-

(Continued from page 12)

Sudan frees political detainees ters shouted Allahu Akbar

and some wept in joy as Dr. Mahdi, 59, got off his car. Dr. Mahdi did not make any stalements after the longest period he spent in

prison since Gen. Bashir took

Prince urges focus on science (Continued from page 1)

through scientifie research and integration and coordination between policies governing science and technology activities on the one hand and application of scientifie research on the ground.

The scientists and experts in various walks of life have a

Five: Due attention should be given to publication of research results. A total of 36 national in-

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# **Arab Gulf states set to boost** 1995 oil income, cut deficit

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Oil export earnings by six Arab Gulf states will likely grow in 1995 and help them ease their budget deficits and reverse a downturn in their economies, experts said Friday.

Although oil prices have slipped over the past few weeks, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states expect their income to be higher than in 1994 due to a strong improvement in the first half of 1995, the experts said.

"Gulf states expect the average oil price to be higher this year than in 1994 due to relative compliance by OPEC with its production ceiling. This has made them project. an increase in their 1995 revenues by between 10 and 15 per cent," said an economic expert close to the GCC.

The average price of OPEC's hasket of seven crudes surged to around \$17.5 in the first half of 1995 compared with around \$14.5 in the first half of 1994 and \$15.5 in the whole of 1994. With prices at around \$15.8 currently, the average

the experts said.

They noted prices were unlikely to decline further in the last quarter as seasonal demand picks up, and the 12nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is staying mostly within the official output ceil-

The experts also cited U.S. statements downplaying spe-culation about an imminent removal of the oil embargo against Iraq. Such specula-tion had in the past put pressure on oil prices although several OPEC members had tried to assure the market they could absorb the return of the Iraqis.
United Nations disarma-

ment chief Rolf Ekeus raised hopes last week of a U.N. resolution easing the crippling Gulf war sanctions on Iraq after Baghdad provided him with fresh information about its biological warfare

Mr. Ekeus, who was to report to the U.N. Security Council Friday on his latest mission in Baghdad, said the new information had quickened the process towards ending the five-year-old embar-

But the United States quickly dashed hopes of such a move, with State Department spokesman David Johnson saying Iraq's response was not enough.

"Iraq must demonstrate its peaceful intentions by complying with all its obliga-tions," he told reporters in Washington on Wednesday.

He referred to Kuwaiti prisoners of war in Iraq, return of Kuwaiti property seized dur-ing the 1990 Iraqi invasion and Baghdad's involvement

Oil executives in the Gulf said crude prices remained relatively firm because of the latest political upheaval in Iraq, which was the second biggest oil producer in OPEC before the invasion of neighbouring Kuwait.

With an average price of between \$16 and \$17 a barrel and production of around 13 oil revenues are expected to range between \$76 billion and \$80 billion in 1995, they

This compares with around \$70 billion in 1994 and nearly \$74 billion in 1993, when

crude prices averaged \$16.33. The 1995 price is also higher by \$1 to \$2 than the level projected in most GCC budgets, which are financed mainly from oil exports.

"There is no doubt this will largely support the GCC cof-fers and reduce their budget deficits unless there was an unexpected increase in spending. The revenue growth will also boost their economies, most of which recorded a negative growth in 1994 due to low oil prices," a Gulf economist said.

The combined GCC hudget deficit was projected at around \$9.6 billion in 1995 compared with \$17.3 hillion in 1994. The 1994 shortfall was lower because most members trimmed expenditure and forecast higher re-



A Bangladeshi river gypsy, woman sets out on a country boat with her merchandise for sale at Dhaka's low-lying Kaliganj suburb. These gypsies, who live on wooden boats earning a wage from selling herbal medicines and jewellery, are on the verge of dying out as many of the young choose an

urban lifestyle over life on the river. The upo Conference on Women in Beijing in September will address issues such as problems women face in health, education and access to economic resources and positions of political power

pare a list of "sensitive" un-

processed agriculture products for which tariffs could

The list would be submit-

ted to the ASEAN economic

ministers meeting in Brunei

next month, which would de-

cide on a broad mechanism to

liberalise regional trade in

farm and manufactured pro-

ducts considered sensitive by

also be reduced.

# French jobs, austerity poser after resignation of Madelin

At the same time, France is

planning austerity to slash a

haviour left the government no choice," said Louis Vian-

net, general secretary of the

communist CGT. But he

added: "We need more than

just this minister's resignation

Mr. Madelin's successor

Jean Arthins, 50, until now

minister for economic de-

velopment and planning and

seen as less outspoken and

less for a free marketeer,

pledged to stick to Mr. Chir-

The first priority is "win-ning the battle for jobs while preserving social cohesion...

the second priority is to con-

trol public spending... and to cut deficits," be said Satur-

Mr. Jnppe, announcing Mr. Madelin's departure

without a word of regret, said

Mr. Madelin's statements "contradicted the govern-

"Madelin's aggressive be-

huge deficit.

to change things."

ac's policies.

PARIS (R) — French unions France's top priority will be a and opposition parties Saturday welcomed the shock resignation of Finance Minister Alain Madelin and predicted the government faced future crises in reconciling its twin plans of joh creation and

budget curbs.
Mr. Madelin was forced out 100 days after the formation of the centre-right government Friday for suggesting less generous public sector pensions and welfare handonts, contradicting the spirit of reforms outlined by President Jacques Chirac.

Newspapers were unanimous in calling it the first crisis for the new government and said Mr. Madelin had been forced out. "Inppe sacks Madelin," the Parisien

Socialist Party leader Henri Emmanuelli said Mr. Madelin's departure was "the first serious political evidence of the demagogic contradictions that made up the web of Mr. Chirac's policies... in the presidential campaign. There

Mr. Cbirac has said

ment's desire for reform based on policies of fiscal and ployment and extra aid for social justice." the homeless and the poor.

Communist Party hoss Robert Hue said Mr. Made-lin's departure highlighted contradictions in policy be-tween jobs and Mr. Madelin's crusade to enable France to meet strict economic criteria in the European Union's Maastricht treaty.

"You can't claim to attack a social fracture while serving Maastricht and 'money as king'," be said. Mr. Chirac will meet Mr.

Madelin Tuesday, the Elysee Palace said.

The daily Liberation said it would complicate prepara-tions for the 1996 budget and was especially bad for France "where the departing minister was a sort of guarantee of financial orthodoxy in the eyes of the financial com-

Earlier this month, Mr. Juppe ordered ministers to cut France's public sector deficit to four per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) next year from a forecast five per cent rate this year.

# ASEAN decides to remove tariffs on 1,304 farm products

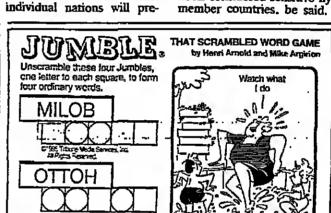
SINGAPORE (AFP) — The booming South East Asian economies decided Friday to liberalise tariffs for unprocessed agricultural products for the first time as part of an effort to establish a free-trade area by 2003.

Agriculture ministers of the seven-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) announced at a joint news conference here that tariff reduction on 1,304 farm products would be implemented from Jan, 1,

The list of the product was not made available. "This is the first time tariffs

for unprocessed agriculture products are to be reduced"
ASEAN Secretary General Ajit Singh said after two days of talks among the grouping's

the grouping this month and is scheduled to come on board the free-trade handwagon in 2006.



RUNEPY **DEEBIS** 

ferential Tariff (CEPT)

The tariff reduction pro-

cess for most manufactured

and processed agricultural

products began in 1993 under

the CEPT scheme, the engine

of the ASEAN Free Trade

Mr. Singh said that the

ministers also decided that

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as sug-gested by the above cartoon.

HOW THEY LEARNED TO CRUSH GRAPES.

Jumbles: CLEFT MERCY DOUBLY NOODLE What hot chicken soup can bring — "COLD" COMFORT

agriculture ministers.

ASEAN comprises Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, which joined

The six other ASEAN countries have vowed to reduce tariffs to a maximum five per cent by January 2003 through a mechanism called the Common Effective Pre-

# THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

"Look at my body! If reincarnation is real, I'll probably come back as that stuff inside a lava lamp!"

MOLES HAVE VERY WEAK EYES ..

THEY DIG TUNNELS JUST UNDER THE

### HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SUNDAY,

**AUGUST 27, 1995** By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Being with friends and improving associations is fine today. Take pains to

handle routine task in effi-

cient manner. Get it all out of TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Show appreciation to those who have power over your affairs and gain their further goodwill. Use modern methods to improve your work today and thus increase

your success. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 22): See what you can do aboutenlarging your vision so theryon may advance in your line of endeavour and be wise to any methods that will help

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take no risks With your bealth today, Handle your responsibilities more efficiently and it becomes easier for you to get them done.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Support those associates who need your belp now. Listen to the complaints of family members today and give help where needed to solving problems. Don't put this on a back burner.

VIRGO: (Angust 22 to September 22) You have to be more enthused if you are to get the tasks done that are important to you today. Strive for increased happiness in your personal life.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Take time to put your husiness and financial affairs in better order. Be sure to keep promises that you have made to others and you will be well respected.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be more considerate of the needs of family members today and m establishing more harmony at home. Avoid one who gossips too much about every-thing... especially about you!

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Discuss your views with associates and improve regular routines today. Plan how to gain your most cherished aims and make the effort to make them

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Look over your financial condition and then confer with experts to improve it. Take no risks in motion today or there could be trouble.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Use tact with others and they will soon give you the favours you desire. The evening is fine for social pleasures with the one you are fond of.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are able to communicate well with associates and can advance in career matters today. Sidestep a troublemaker and you will be successful.

Birthstone of August: Peri-- Golden Quartz

# THE Daily Crossword by George Urquhart

- ACROSS 1 Panorama 6 Riding whip 10 Saitor's drink 14 Great expanse 15 Time period 16 Pro -17 IN city 19 Opposed
- 20 Baseball stat 21 Fine spray 22 Tough, fibrous tissue 24 Loudness unit
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- 40 "Little Women" character 41 Same as above 42 Land and the buildings upon it
- 44 Cash in 45 Smell 46 Use profanity 47 Kitchen device
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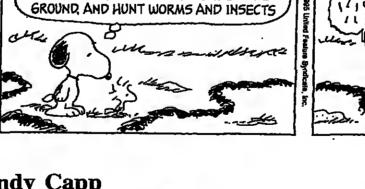
- Yesterday's puzzle solved: 11 Author Ayn —
- 12 Sarge's dog 13 Profit LIRALLORIS ARIE 18 Indication
- 23 Comp. dir. 24 CA city 25 Tether 26 Overcharge for tickets 27 Passion 28 Curtain fabric 29 Southern dish
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# **Andy Capp**

**Peanuts** 



# Mutt'n' Jeff



# Jordan, Israel to sign agricultural agreement

in few days

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

**☆☆ JORDAN AND Israel** will be signing an agricultural agreement in the coming few days after many months of intensive discussions. The draft agreement, which contains eight main articles, include giving Jordan the printity to supply Israel with agricultural products whenever the Jewish state decides to import fresb produce. In such a case, Jordanian exports will be totally exempted from customs. Also to be exempted from customs on an annual basis will be 50,000 tonnes of fruits and vegetables, 900 tonnes of olive oil, 30,000 live or slaughtered sheep, 1,000 tonnes of white cheese and 2,000 tonnes of jameed. Under the agreement, to be signed by the agriculture ministers of both countries, Jordan reserves the right to specify the farm products to be imported from Israel. The accord states that Israel would facilitate the delivery of Jordanian agricultural products to the Palestinian areas during the transition period. Joint agricultural projects could be set up, the agree-ment says (Al Ra'i).

SCOPE

FOR SUNDAY

S. Pierson

Carroll Rights

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\*\* AN EXTRAORDIN-ARY general assembly meeting of the Housing Bank approved raising its capital from JD 18 million to JD 25 million by floating seven million A shares for private subscription. The general assembly also approved capitalising JD 6 million from the capital reserves by awarding each sbarebolder registered on Aug. 5, 1995 half a share free for every one share of equity (Al Ra't + Al Aswaq).

AA THE ARAB Company for Manufacturing White Cement posted record production and sales in 1994 with figures exceeding 96,000 tonnes and 98,000 tonnes respectively. High demand for white cement in the Jordanian and Syrian markets has pressed the company to cut back its exports last year more than it did in 1993. The company made JD 1.25 million in net profits last year due to increased sales, lower costs of production, higher price for cement and the drop in interest paid on loans. The white cement firm had a total of JD 19.6 million in net fixed assets at the end of 1994 (Al

☆☆ THE JORDAN International Trading Centre recorded a JD 231,000 net profit during its 1994/1995 financial year compared to only JD 4,000 io the 1993/1994 finaneial year. The company boosted its sales to JD 2.1 million at the end of March 1995 from JD 1.2 million at the end of March 1994. Ordinary paper accounted for 70 per cent of total sales in the 1994/1995 year compared to 25 per cent in the previous year. Costs were down to JD 1.74 million from JD 1.08 million. The net profit posted this year enabled the company to cover about 50 per cent of accumulated losses (Al Ra'i).

ary 20) Look & ☆☆ ROYAL JORDANIAN carried 710,082 passengers during the first seven months of this year, 2.8 per cent more than the number during the same period of last year. Cargo carried during the 1995 period amounted to 37,485 tonnes, 25 per cent over the seven months period of last year. Sources at the planning department said the occupancy rate of seats was 63.6 per cent (64.4 in 1994) and the loading capacity rate was 58.3 per cent (55.6 in 1994) (Al Ra'i).

# Diller to take control of television company

NEW YORK (R) - Barry Diller, who built the Fox Television network in the 1980s and has long sought a majur media company, unveiled a deal Friday fur a string of TV stations that could furm the backbone for a new network.

Mr. Diller said he is buying a 20 per cent stake in Silver King Communications Inc., the nation's sixth largest TV station operator with a dozen UHF stations. He also received an option for another 70 per cent stake.

Silver King, based in St. Pelersburg, Flurida, currently broadcasts the Home Shopping network but analysis said that Mr. Diller will likely begin to build a

new network from that base. Mr. Dillar has long wanted to control a media company, rather than work for another corporate giant, but lus previous bids for Paramount Communications and CBS Inc. ended in failure. His deal for Silver King is

the latest in an explosive summer in the television industry. Walt Disney Co. agreed to buy Capital Cities/ ABC Inc. lor \$19 biltion and Westinghouse Electric Corp is having CBS for \$5.4 bil-

Under the Silver King deal, Mr. Diller will buy 20 per cent of the company for \$22.625 a share, and receive an option for control of another 70 per cent of the company's common stock. It was unclear how much cash Mr. Diller was actuatly purting into the deal, and a spokesman could offer no de-

The option for the 70 per cent stake is controlled by Liberty Media Corp., part of John Malone's Tele-Communications Inc. cable TV empire that ranks as the largest in the nation and which also controls the Home

Shopping network. Liberty Media had been unable to exercise the option because federal laws prohibit a cable TV company from owning broadcust properties.

The television stations owned by Silver King, which also has 27 low-powered broadcast stations, were spun off from the Home Shopping network in 1992.

"Malone has had a bad time with Home Shopping, it's performing poorly, so he is hinging in Diller to shore it up," said one analyst whu declined to be named.

Silver King's UHF stations reach 28 million homes. They serve eight of the 12 largest television markets in the United States, including New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, Dallas, Houston and Cleveland.

Analysts said Mr. Diller will likely start a network un a small scale, offering one day of programming in addition to the Home Shupping schedule and then expanding. With the major television

networks now allowed to produce their own programming in competition with the hig Hollywood studios, competition will mount and lower the costs for a company seeking programmes like Silver King. Rupert Murdoch's News

Corp. Ltd. started Fox Television in the mid-1980s in a similar way, buying its core stations from Metromedia in a multibillion-dollar deal and then expanding. Mr. Diller started the Fux

network fur Mr. Murdoch, but then left and ended up with OVC Network Inc., a Home Shopping service. He then exited QVC and had been rumuured to be looking for a new company ever since his failed bids for Paramuunt

Jordan Lines Financial Markets Cairo Amman Bank



Markets	
New York Close Into 24/8895	New yeak Close Ima 25/8/95
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֡	New York Close the 24/8895 1.5459 1.4745 1.2177 5.8640 96.50

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Saudi Riyal	6.1845	0.1910	
Kurrelli Diase	2.2900	2.3350	
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Egyptian Pound	0.7000	0.2130	
Omani Riyel	1.8229	0,1943 0,3375	
L'AE Dirham	0.1992		
Greek Drackers*	0.2475		
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AUTHENTIC

Jabal Amman



# Confusion, conflicting opinions depress prices, trading at AFM

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prices dipped at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) Saturday on low volume in the face of uncertainties over Jordanian-Iraqi trade and economic ties, but blue chips largely maintained their strength, brokers said. They said the shift in prices was between three and four

per cent, mostly affecting industrial companies nor listed in the official AFM index. As such, they said, the decline in prices in the official index was not really indicative of the trend in the market. The official index, which is

based on 60 major companies from among the nearly 120 listed in the market, closed at 156.69, down 0.28 per cent from the day's opening. The separate sectoral in-

dices showed that commercial banks and financial institutions slipped by 0.14 per cent to close at 182.05 points. services companies by 0.25

points, and industrials by 0.56 per cent to close at 126.99 points. No trading was reported in the insurance sector on Saturday.

per cent to close at 126.46

"It was a very bad day," said an AFM broker, speak-ing on condition of anonymity in line with standing mar-ket guidelines. "Trading volume was low at around JD 600,000 and people were not really willing to sell except those who really needed li-

The daily AFM report showed that trading for the day was JD 597,164, with commercial banks accounting for JD 230,144, the services sector for JD 140,149 and industrials for 226,871. Volume of shares traded in the parallel market was JD 157,313.

According to the broker, "there is a lor of confusion and conflicting opinion among investors, some of them positive and others negative," over economic

# **Buffett** to buy rest of Geico for \$2.3b

OMAHA, Nebrasca (R) --Billionaire Warren Buffett said Friday he would pay \$2.3 billion to buy the rest of Geico Carp., the insurance company he sank most of his savings into as a young inves-tor nearly 45 years ago.

The purchase by Mr. Buffett, now one of America's most widely watched and shrewdest investors, will further extend the diverse empire that has already made him the world's second richest businessman.

Mr. Buffett, whose net worth of \$10.7 billion ranks him behind Microsoft Corp. Chairman William Gates, said the purchase reflects his longstanding confidence in Geico, which sells auto, home, life and health insur-"In 1951, when I was 20, I

invested well over half of my net worth in Geico," Mr. Buffett sald. "I felt very comfortable with that commitment and I feel equally comfortable with the major commitment that Berkshire Hathaway has made today."

Mr. Buffett said he did not expect any staff cuts at subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway Inc., his Omaha, Nehrasca-based holding com-

As is customary with the 64-year-old investor, the acquired company will retain its management.

The terms of the deal call for Berkshire Hathaway to offer \$70 a share for the 49 per cent of Geico it does not already own. Berkshire also owns big stakes in Coca-Cola Co., Capital Cities/ABC Inc., which is being acquired by Walt Disney Co.

Mr. Buffett, in an interview on CNBC-TV, said he decided to buy out the rest of the company now because the rime seemed right and he liked the insurer's low-cost business strategy. "It's a low-cost operator

and it's been a low-cost oper-ator since 1936," Mr. Buffett said, noting that Washington, D.C.-based Geico does not use sales agents. He said he would have

been willing to buy the rest of the company at other times, but said its current management favoured such a deal, Geico, which will become a providing the price was right.

lowing the "recent political developments.

That was a reference to the Aug. 8 defection of two topranking Iraqi officials to Jor-dan and Wednesday's speech to the natioo by His Majesty King Hussein in which the Monarch criticised the Iraqi leadership.

"Investors at the AFM are as politicised as any other segment of the Jordanian society," said the broker.

"Some say the King's speech, in which he pledged to keep borders open with Iraq, was something that had to be said, while others are

apprehensive that Iraq might retaliate by scaling down economie and trade ties with Jordan," said the broker.

"Either way, many inves-tors are opting to hold on to their stocks while looking for signs of Iraqi intentions as well as signals from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait of their plans to consolidate relations with Jordan," added the

broker. The broker as well as several other AFM dealers and banking executives said they expected the "wait-andsee" approach to continue in the market for the rest of the week.

"Of course, if there are internal political developments within Iraq -- which may bave little to do with Jordan - then the market will react more strongly," said a portfolio executive at a commercial bank.

Saturday's developments in the market appeared to confirm the view of a senior government source, who said Friday that the Jordanian market would "absorb" the political developments. There will be a negative impact, but it will not be of such a major scale as many would like to project," the source said.

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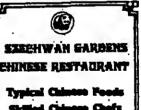
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Ki Konrad Gulka Gna-Carol Brem-(2:00.18) and siver medallist of Ukraine sere the next-Estate 12

pic gold who reand anchored Rassian 4x100 acias on Friday.

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rofinance start so his start so his win the European start so his beginning the qualand of the start so his start so defend her start so his start so defend her start so his start so hi the title showed orbi by semmine

Kenyan Moses Kiptanui jumps over a hurdle on his way to win the 3000 m steeplechase at

# Mutola sets world mark in women's 1,000

.000 metres Friday at the Van Damme dominating their events here. Memorial, sweetening a hitter summer which saw her disqualified at the World Cham- will split between all those with a foor-out-of-

Mutola became the first woman to run the distance under 21/2 minutes, finishing her race his perfect record in the javelin, beaten by in 2:29.34 minutes. U.S. runner Meredith world champion Jan Zelezny. Rainey led her to a quick split time at 600,

Christine Wachtel.

those from Goteborg early this month, when seconds. she was favoured to win the 800. But in the outside her lane and broke down in tears.

Moses Kiptanuì also provided an excellent performance and ran the second sub-8 minute steeplechase in history, finishing only .35 seconds outside his world record.

Kenyan world champion set in Zurich last pionships.

pionsbip gold medals. Gwen Torrence, with the race but soon had to settle for victory two, and Linford Christie, with none, all alone. The Irishwoman cruised home in remained on course for up to 20 kilos in gold 14:50.70 minutes, well ahead of Derartu Tulu after maintaining a perfect record in their of Ethiopia.

event during the third of the Golden four Shikolenko of Belarus dominated the field.

BRUSSELS (AP) - Maria Mutola of competition kept alive their chances for at Mozambique set a new world mark in the least a shot of the \$230,000 in gold by

After Oslo, Zurich and Brussels, the gold

four record in Berlin Sept. 1. Germany's Raymond Hecht however lost

Torrence ran the second-fastest 200 of the leaving Mutola to cover the last lap on her year to beat her rival Merlene Ottey in 21.87. Christie, who was hampered by a hamstring Cheered by 38,000 fans, she slashed 1.34 injury during the World Championship final seconds off the 1990 mark of Germany's early this month, beat world champion Donovan Bailey for a second time in as many weeks The happy scenes contrasted sharply with Friday, and took the 100 metres in 10.09

With fellow-American Butch Reynolds abfirst heat, she was disqualified for running sent, Johnson missed his main rival but gained two strong challengers in Derek Mills and Jamaican Greg Haughton, who chased him up to 20 metres from the line. Johnson finished in a time of 44.64 seconds.

Johnson has hardly been involved in any rivalry this year, such was his domination. At In cold and windy conditions, Kiptanui ran the World Championships he won gold in the most of the race on his own and finished in 200, 400 and 1,600 relay, making him the most 7:59.53 minutes, just short of the record the successful athlete of the World Cham-

The 5,000 metre world champion O'Sulli-Michael Johnson, with three world cham- van was chasing the world record early on in

as she has done most of the year, easily Ireland's Sonia O'Sullivan the 5,000 and winning the javelin competition with a throw Natalja Shikolenko of Belarus in the javelin of 68.42 metres.

# Sensational race in prospect in Belgian Grand Prix

Belgium (AFP) - A rainy final qualifying session for the Belgian Grand Prix set up a sensational race Sunday. with two Ferraris on the front row, Damon Hill eighth and world champion Michael Schumacber back in 16th

Gerhard Berger took pole ahead of Jean Alesi, with the McLareo Mercedes of Mika Hakkioen third and Schumacher's teammate Johnny Herbert fourth, Hill's teammate David Coulthard was fifth ahead of Mark Blundell in the secood McLaren Mercedes.

It was the worst qualifying position of Schumacher's career, and followed a heavy accident in morning practice. His car was badly damaged with the German uninjured but "frustrated and

Hill, who slid off the track in his final qualifying run, said "the car was good oo that lap and now it is going to be a very interesting race.
"As far as the championship is concerned," said

Hill, who trails the title leader Schumacher by 11 points, "This is not a total disaster, but it was a bit of a messy day

Schumacher said his lowly grid position was "obviously very disappointing, but I am sure it will be very entertaining to start from my posi-

Spa Francorchamps is known as a circuit on which overtaking is relatively easy, and the powerful Renault engines in Hill's Williams and Schumacher's Benetton

meant that they "should be

ly," said Berger. "It will be a great race," he

Friday's first qualifying in the rain bad seen slow times on the long, fast and demandiog Spa Francorchamps track, with Berger again fastest, with Schumacher second from Alesi and Hill. The track was dry as Saturday's final hour started, but rain began falling after three mi-

"When I saw the first drops falling," Berger said, "I went on the safe side to be sure I had a lap time." That "safe" lap of 1 min. 54.392 at an average speed of 219,476 kph was good enough for pole.

"I hope I get round the first corner okay with these two guys," Berger said with a grin at Alesi and Hakkinen.

# World University Games

# Japan keeps narrow lead in medals race

Americans' speed in the swimming pool wasn't quite enough to overtake Japan in the World University Games medals race Saturday as Japan added another gold to its judo collection.

The United States won three of the day's six swim-ming races, but Japan won two to go with its judo gold, leaving the Japanese ahead 10 to 8 in golds and 26 to 24 in total medals after three days of competition.

Russia's Evgueni Chabaev won the men's all-around gymnastics gold, giving his nation a total of four golds io a collection of 10 medals. South Korea had three golds and nine medals overall.

Brazil hroke up the U.S.-Japan duel in swimmiog when Fernando Scherer and Gustavo Borges placed 1-2 in the men's 100-metre freestyle, giving their nation its first gold here.

Italy also won its first gold when Maria Valentina Vezzali took the women's foil fenciog.

China, South Korea and Cuba each picked up one gold in judo. In direct U.S.-Japan swim-

ming battles Saturday, America's Kurt Jachimowski edged Japan's Hajime Itoi hy .28 seconds in the men's 100metre backstroke, and Japan's Yoko Koikawaw, a native of the host city, beat

European competition were

drawn against Russian

opposition on Friday, with

Blackburn facing Spartak Moscow in the Champions

League and both Manchester

United and Liverpool head-

ing behind the old Iron Cur-

Blackburn's first foray into

the European Cup has little.

glamour with Polish side

Legia Warsaw and Norwe-

gians Rosenborg completing

their groop.

But it does offer the man-

agement duo of Ray Harford

and Kenny Dalglish an excel-

lent chance to succeed where

Arsenal, Leeds and Man-

chester United failed in

reaching the later stages since

the ban on English clubs was

Blackburn reacted with

cautions optimism to the

draw with assistant manager

"It would appear that we are in a non-glamorous group

but we are aware that there

are no soft teams at this level.

it's something of a journey into the unknown. We had a

bad experience against part-

timers Trelleborgs last season but that won't effect our posi-

tive frame of mind.
"We are the English cham-

pions and the English game is still rated very highly. It's

going to take a lot of home-

work on our part over the

next few weeks and we are

already making plans to

watch our opponents in some

Rovers are expected to

send a representative to cast

depth." he added.

"We are confident but now

Tony Parkes saying:

tain io the UEFA Cup.

English clubs facing

Russian roulette

LONDON (AFP) — Three out of the six English clubs in Spartak Moscow and that

Daiglish.

one for us.

he joked.

of Michigan by .26 in the women's 200-metre backstroke.

Emily Peters, trailing Japan's Sachiko Miyaji at the midway point, came from behind to lead a 1-2 U.S. finish in the women's 400-metre freestyle. Sarah Anderson was second and Miyaji faded

to third. The women's 4×100-metre freestyle relay quartet — Jessica Tong, Lisa Coole, Mary Edwards and Talor Bendel captured the third American gold of the day, winning hy more than five seconds in 3:46.68. Italy was second in 3:52.06 and Japan third in

"Our country bas such depth and it shows op oo the relay," said Tong, "It's very competitive in the U.S. so it's a great honour to get on the team. I know 20 other girls who could have swum the relay.

In the men's 100-metre breaststroke, Japan's Akira Hayashi beat two Russians. winning in 1:02.71. Alexander Tkatchev, gold medallist here in the men's 200 breastroke, was second in 1:03.38 with teammates Stanislav Lopoukbov third in 1:03.66.

Scherer won the 100 freesin 49.69 seconds, Borges took the sivler in 50.20 and American Josh Davis of Texas was third in

Spartak Moscow and that

could well be the club's new

director of football Kenny

banded an almighty Cham-

pions League challeoge. The

Scottish Champions will face

the might of Juventus, Borus-

sia Dortmund and Steaua

Bucharest in the group

stages.
That is an awesome test for Paul

Walter Smith's side — Paul

Gascoigne et al - and Smith

said: "It's a very daunting draw but a very interesting

and Juventus strengtheoed

their sides to win their

leagues but at least Juventus

FA Cup bolders Everton

have a relatively easy task in Iceland against Reykjavik,

while Scottish cup holders

Celtic face the unknown

Georgians of Dinamo Batu-

fortunes for England's foor

UEFA Cup representatives,

all former European winners.

Nottingham Forest will re-

run the first of Brian

Clough's two European Cup

triumphs against Swedish

side Malmo, while Leeds face

Jean Tigana's highly-rated

But Leeds manager Ho-

ward Wilkinson said he was

relishing the prospect of pit-

ting his team against Mona-

trip. I am tempted to go on that one myself," he quip-

son who has been persocalis-ing this (dispute) is him."

Rather than criticise the

"What a wonderful spying

French team Monaco.

But there were contrasting

have sold Roberto Baggio.

"Both Borussia Dortmund

In cootrast, Rangers were

The Americans now have

American Elizabeth Jackson worl eight of the 18 swimming races beld so far, and Japan has four victories.

Japan leads in its native sport of judo with five golds from 12 events. South Korea has three and Cuba two.

Japan's Kenzo Nakamura pinned down South Korea's Lee Eun-Hak in 2:46 for vic-tory in the meo's 71kilogramme class, but Korean Jung Se-Hoon won a decision over Japan's Ryuta Yumiya at 65 kilogrammes.

Japan lost another final when Morales Gonzales of Cuba won a decision over Chiyori Tateno in the women's 52-kilogramme

In fencing, Vezzali defe-ated Italian compatriot Annamaria Giacometti 15-9 and then Hungary's Reka Szabo, who lost her semifinal 15-13 to Mincza, shared the

In soccer, striker Daizo Okitso scored two goals and created two others as Japan trounced Slovakia 5-2 and advanced to the quarterfinals along with the defeoding champioo Czech Republic, Iran, Ukraine, Australia, South Korea, Russia and South Africa in the last eight.

1993 medals race with 75 in all, iocluding 30 gold, followed by Canada with 40 and Japan with 30. China stood second in golds, however, with 17.

The United States won the

University Games-briefs

\* They may be 8,000 kilometres or more from home, but some of the athletes at the World University Games feel

like they are the home team anyway.

After its 110-84 victory over Mexico Friday, the Canadian men's basketball team found crowds of Japanese children waiting to take photos and exchange high fives.

"It's like we're celebrities. It's just great," said forward

Guard Keith Vassel added: "It's really flattering because it's not just asking for an autograph. It's like their eyes light up."

At the U.S. men's opening volleyball game, against

Lithuania, hundreds of children waved American flags, and sought autographs and handshakes after the Americans' straight-games victory.
"That was tremendous to see this kind of reaction from

the crowd. It makes us feel like we are home again," said Tom Hoff of Long Beach State. \* South Korea and the United States each had two players advance to the quarterfinals of the men's singles

tennis tournament Saturday at the World University Top-seeded Lee Hyung-Taik of South Korea downed Zheng Yu of China 6-3, 6-4 and his compatriot Yoon Young-II, the No. seed, ousted Levente Baratosi of

Hungary 6-3, 6-0.
David Caldwell, the No. 8 seed from North Carolina, defeated Arata Ito of Japan 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 and No. 11 Paul

Goldstein of Stanford took more than two hours to beat New Zealand Andrew Turner 7-5. 6-3. Top-seeded women Wang Shi-Ting of Taiwan and Rika Hiraki of Japan, regular on the women's professional tour,

both advanced with straight set victories along with No. 6 seed Kelly Pace of Texas, who scrambled by Marta Alastrue of Spain 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (9-7).

Jane Chi of UCLA was the first American to lose in singles action, going down 6-2, 6-4 to Kaoru Shibata of

\* Italy was the only team with a perfect record at the conclusion of the first round of water polo competition at the World University Games.

# **SPORTS IN BRIEF**

# No new term for Martina

NEW YORK (AP) — With one of her main goals accomplished and the other possibly close to being done, Martina Navratilova will oot seek another term as president of the WTA tour players association. "Martina's loog bistory with the Tour and the players was invaluable, and ber efforts were most visible in belping to develop the plan for Monica Seles' special ranking consideration upon her return to the tour," Anne Person Worcester, chief executive officer of the WTA, said Thursday, Navratilova's first goal as president was to get Seles back to competitive tennis. Seles victory in last week's Canadian Open was ber first tournament appearance since being stabbed in Germany two years ago. Navraniova has also tried to land a sponsor for women's tennis, which has been without one since Kraft dropped its affiliation. She says a sponsor might be in place by the end of the U.S. Open, which begins its two-week run Monday. Navranilova, 38, bas said she wants to put her personal life ahead of tennis. "We understand the demands oo ber time and respect her decision not to run again,' Worcester said.

### **UAE** driver killed

COWES, Isle of Wight (AP) - Hamed Buhaleeba, one of the United Arab Emirates most successful sportsmeo, was killed Friday in an accident during the world class 2 and 3 powerboat championships. Race officials said Buhaleeba was driving the 32-foot Dubai Victory team catamaran, Victory I, when it overturned off England's southern coast near Ryde, Isle of Wight. The 30-year-old Buhaleeba was pulled from the boat by aerial paramedics and taken by helicopter to the Royal Navy's vessel Haslar, where be was pronounced dead an bour after the accident. Buhaleeba's brother, Rashid, who was also on the boat, was unburt.

### '\$1b for World Cup rights'

of sports marketing companies is offering \$1 billion for world rights for the 2002 World Cup soccer championship to be held in Japan spectators. She was hit by the advance car or South Korea. The amount, said to be four which clears the road for the competition cars, times bigher than the marketing figure for the although the other spectators managed to get 1994 World Cup in the United States, was oot of the way. The car, driven by Belgiao made public Friday by Hamburg-based UFA Rally driver Bruoo Thiry, rolled and landed Film and Televisioo, a subsidiary of the upside-down in a ditch. Thiry was not injured. German media giant Bertelsmann. UFA's The 1000 Lakes Rally, which ends Sunday, sports-marketing division is making its offer together with the American company IMG, ruo by Mark McCormack, said UFA spokesman Stefan Thies.

### Muster cruises past Arrese

UMAG, Croatia (AP) - Top-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria on Friday took only 64 minutes to crush Jordi Arrese of Spain 6-I, Muster, third on the ATP list, has already won three matches in the tournament - all another Spaniard in the semifinals: fifthseeded Francisco Clavet. Clavet had less seeded Carlos Costa of Spain seemed provided a big surprise by beating second-seeded countryman Alberto Berasategui, 6-4, 6-4.

### Sampdorla lose Zenga

GENOA, Italy (R) - Sampdoria goalkeeper Walter Zenga injured his knee on the eve of the oew Serie A soccer season and will not olay again this year. Clob doctor Gian Maria Vassallo said the 35-year-old former Italy goalkeeper would be unable to play for between four and six months after tearing cruciate ligaments in his left knee in a training session on Friday afternoon. "I went out to stop (Fausto) Salsano, but he sold me a dummy. I don't know what happened next. I tried to change diffection but my left leg froze," Zenga said.

### Kafelnikov, Rosset in semis

COMMACK, New York (AP) - Defending anced to the semifinals of the Hamlet Cup on Friday night, beating Shuzo Matsuoka of Japan 5-7, 6-2, 6-2. "He served very well in the first set and it was tough to get a rhythm on tthe return," said Kafelnikov, who will face No. 3 Marc Rosset of Switzerland. "In the second and third sets I returned much better." Rosset, 5-0 lifetime against Kafelnikov, beat Cedric Pioline of France 7-5, 6-7 (3-7), 6-1. Rosset was up a service break in the second set, but Pioline broke back and won the tiebreaker to force the third set. Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands will play Renzo Furlan of Italy in the other semifinal. Siemer-ink beat Todd Woodbridge of Australia 6-4, 6-2 and Furian defeated Malivai Washington 6-4, 1-6, 6-2,

### Fan killed at 1000 Lakes Rally

IYVAESKYLAE, Finland (AFP) - A 20year-old woman spectator at the 1000 Lakes Rally in Jyvaeskylae, Finland was killed Saturday when she was hit by a car during the BERLIN (AP) - A German-American duo race. The accident bappeo only 200 metres (660 feet) after the start, where the woman was crossing the road with several other

ROME (AFP) - Italian football federation president Antooio Matarrese on Friday said the national side would not play a European qualifying match in Croatia because of his personal desire to avoid a war zone. Matar-rese, in an interview with Corriere Della Sera 6-3 and advance to the semifinals of the on the Oct. 8 match in Split, said: "The Italian team will neither play in Split nor Zagreb not team will neither play in Split nor Zagreb not because of fear (of bombardment), but because oeither me, nor Sacchi (Arrigo Sacchi, against Spanish opponents — and will face Italy's coach) want to play where there is a war." However Matarrese is said to be in agreement to play the match in Vienna: Croatian Alen Boksic, who plays for Italian seeded Francisco Clavet. Clavet nao less agreement to play the march in Vienna: trouble than expected, defeating Magnus Croatian Alen Boksic, who plays for Italian Gustafsson of Sweden 6-2, 6-3. Third seed side Lazio, said: "I would be very unhappy if Gustaisson of Sweden 0-2, 0-3. Tanto seeds the fixture was played at Vicona. It would not Javier Sanchez of Spain, 6-2, 6-4. Seventh- ube fair — in fact, it would be absurd."

# NBA commissioner accuses agent of stirring controversy who I have great respect for," he said. The ooly per-

NEW YORK (AP) — In an escalation of the heated rhetoric surrounding the NBA's labour mess, an angry David Stern on Friday blasted agent David Falk, saying he is 'casting aspersions' on some players who bave endorsed the proposed labour deal.

Five days before players are to vote oo whether to dissolve their union or accept the labour agreement, the NBA commissioner accused Falk of disparaging his own clients and distorting components of the deal. The controversy over the new collective hargaining agreement bas divided the players, pitting such superstars as Michael Jordan and Patrick Ewing against Karl Malone

and John Stockton.
"He'll stop at nothing,"
Stern said of Falk, who represents Jordan and Ewing and is a leading proponent of disbanding the players' association and pursuiog an antitrust suit against the league. "He is so intent on killing

the deal at all costs, be is trashing his own clients and their negotiations," Stern Falk said, in comments poblished in Friday's New York Times, that a number

of prominent NBA players

who eodorsed the deal after it was oegotiated Aug. 8 would bave been burt financially if the proposed work rules had been in force when their curreot contracts were im-

Uoder the proposed agreemeot, a veteran with a fouror five-year contract can extend it any time after the third year, getting 20 per ceot raises. Previous rules have permitted many players to renegotiate their contracts to obtain multi-millioo-dollar "balloon payments" near the end of a cootract's term.
On Friday, Falk said he did
not intend to disparage such players as Stockton, one of his clients, or Malone, his Utah Jazz teammate, and Houston's Clyde Drexler, both of wbom have benefitted from renegotiated con-tracts with sizable raises. But be said both players were standing by a deal that would burt other similarly situated

players in the future. Drexler will get \$9.7 million next season via a oneyear extension signed midway through a five-year deal. Falk took issue with what be termed Stern's personal attacks on him.

"I think David Stern is a

very savvy, sophisticated guy

group of 16 players who made the initial push for decertification and who are plaintiffs in the antitrust suit, Stern has blamed the ioterference of agents for bis league's labour disruption.

Players are set to vote on Aog. 30 and Sept. 7 whether the union should continue to represent them in collective bargaining. Results of the secret ballot vote will be announced Sept. 12.

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# **European Swimming Championships**

# Bleak day for former champions and medallists

VIENNA (R) — Past champions and medallists were scattered in disarray in the heats of the European Swimming Championships on

Germany's former Olym-pie champion Daniels Hunger fell by the wayside at the first stage of her attempt to win the women's 200 metres individual medley for a record fourth consecutive time.

Frenchman Franck Esposito was denied a place in the 200 metres butterfly final by 0.04 seconds, having won the gold medal in 1991 and the silver in 1993.

Lithuanian Raimundas Mazulois, world and European bronze medallist, fell short of a place in the men's 50 metres freestyle final by the same fraction, touching in a below-par 22.95 seconds. All three were minth over All three were and three were minth over All three were al ing one place away from qualification for the after-

Britain's Martin Harris, bronze medallist at the last European Championships in Sheffield in 1993, could manage only the 13th-fastest qualifying time in the men's 100 metres backstroke in the 50-metre stadionbad pool.

And at the end of the morning Slovenia's Igor Macen, the 1993 bronze medallist, failed to make the 1,500 freestyle final.

But Russian world champions Denis Pankratov and Alexander Popov suffered no such indignities as they aimed for their second individual titles of the 11-day championships.

Pankratov, who shattered the nine-year-old I00 metres butterfly record on Wednesday, was the only swimmer to crack two minutes in the 200

butterfly heats.
The 21-year-old Russian won in 1:59.20 and looked in the form to put his 1:55.22 world record, set in Canet. France, in June, nuder

Poland's Konrad Gulka (2:00.09), Chris-Carol Bremer of Germany (2:00.18) and 100 butterfly silver medallist Denis Silantiev of Ukraine (2:00.19) were the next-

Double Olympie gold medallist Popov, who re-tained his 100 freestyle crown on Thursday and anchored the victorious Russian 4x100 freestyle relay on Friday, won his 50 metres freestyle heat in the third-fastest overall time of 22,79.

Britain's world short-course champion Mark Foster claimed the fastest qualifying time of 22.66 seconds faster than 1993 European silver medallist Christophe Kalfayan of

Germany's Tino Weber led wbo plays for like qualifiers in the men's 100 metres backstorke in 56.01, ahead of Russian Vladimir Seikov.

Spanish world champion Martin Lopez-Zubero is ruled out with a back injury. German former world champion Joers Hoffmann made a confident start to his attempt to win the European 1,500 freestyle title for the fourth time, leading the qualifiers for Sunday's final.

Hungarian Olympic cham-pion Krisztina Egerszegi, who declined to defend her 100 backstroke title, showed alisation she was still the best at the event in Euorpe by swimming t at 8:30 p.m.

relay heats more than a second faster than the time with which Denmark's Mette Jacobsen won the individual Van Almsick's interview

CORRES EDFOAT Franzi Van Almsick is in

trouble again. This time the 17-year-old German swimming champion is accused of

calling Adolf Hitler her favourite historical figure. In a separate box along with a profile story, Swiss sports weekly Zuericher Sport lists Van Almsick's lieblingsfigur" or favourite figures: Among them Amercan actor Tommy Lee Jones,

German tennis player Borish Becker and Hitler. In the accompanying interview, the 10-time European

ledges reading "Mein Kampf" (my struggie) and being curious about German

Van Almsick has been known for making hlunt statements about life in former East Germany as well as talking about her sex life at 15 with a boyfriend IO years

happened, especially World War II," the 200-metre freestyle world champion and record holder was quoted in the publication. "When people talk about Hitler, they al say how evil he was and how many people he killed... in

fact he was quite smart." In German-speaking countries of Europe, Van Almsick is well known and very popular, especially among youth.

# Novotna, Maleeva and Rubin advance to semis

MAHWAH, New Jersey (AP) — Second-seeded Jana Novotna, deprived of her serve and volley game by strong winds, took control in the third set and advanced to the semifinals of the Pathmark Classic with a 6-2, 2-6, 6-0 victory over Iva Majoli on

"I didn't have as many opportunities to come in, the said Novotna, ranked No. 4 in the world. "If it wasn't that windy I'd probably be at the net more. But I was good enough to finish off the point from the back."

In a night match at the Crossroads Corporate Cen-tre, third-seeded Magdelena Maleeva beat Anstria's Judith Wiesner 6-2 4-6, 6-4. Maleeva, ranked No. 7 in the world, will play Novotna on the semifinal Saturday.

Sixth-seeded Chanda Rubin will face Ai Sugiyama of Japan in the other semifinal. Rubin beat Marianne Werdel Witmeyer 6-2, 6-1 on Friday. Sugiyama, who upset top-seeded Conchita, Martinez earlier in the week, advanced to the semifinals

Thursday by beating Nicole Bradtke of Australia. Novoma defeated Majoli, Novotna defeated Majoli, ranked a career-high 12th, in the quarter-finals of the Canadian Open two weeks ago in straight sets. The Croatian gave Novotna more of a challenge this time with her blistering groundstrokes, "I started off well in the first set and Iva had a very good run in the second set," good run in the second set," Novoma said. "She didn't miss one ball, she took advantage of me not serving so well. But this is what

tennis is all about. You can

play well in the first set, your

opponent can play even bet-



Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva

third decides it."
In the final set, Novoma broke Majoli in the first game and never looked back.

"If she plays well, she's a dangerous player," Novotna said. "But she's not consis-tent enough to maintain that form through the whole

Majoli, 18, who turned pro in 1991, has beaten all the top 10 players except Steffi Graf and Novotna. Majoli hopes to have another crack at Novotna if both make it to the fourth round of the U.S.

Open.
I think I want too much when I play Jana," Majoli said. "I want to his some great shots. I think I should be more patient when I play

For her part, Novotna doesn't want to know who she's meeting at the open, where she lost in the semifinals to Graf last year. At a news conference, Novotna was asked how she would feel

playing Monica Seles.
"I never look at the draw and I'd be pleased if you don't tell me who I have to play," Novotna said. Seles is seeded second in

the U.S. Open and she will play the fifth-seeded Novotna if both reached the quarter-

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Parquet as we the power of the eight of clubs. That would guarantee the contract if either the jack or uses of clubs was doubleton, or if the suit divided 3-3.

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SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Croatia vowed on Saturday to retake the last major rebel Serb region on its territory either by negotiation or by

'We are faced with the task of liberating... eastero Slavonia. We will quite certainly do this in the coming mooths either hy peaceful means or by a new (opera-tion) storm," said Croatian President Franjo Tudiman.

Eastern Slavonia, wbich horders on Serhia and Croatia, is a fertile and oilrich reginn. Diplomats have said a Croatian move against the area could lead to a clash between the Balkan neigh-

Mr. Tudjman spoke sburtly before a U.N.-mediated ceasefire between Croat and rebel Serb forces in eastern Slavonia was to take effect nn

He then boarded a train to ride through the Knin-Krajina reginn where bis troops crushed rebel Serbs and recaptured a large swathe of territory with "Operatinn' Storm."

It was the Croatian army's biggest victory since the Serbs revolted in 1991 and declared their own state. That move came after Croatia broke away from former Yugoslavia.

About 90 British peacekeepers from Gorazde left Belgrade nn Saturday nn their way bome. The last peacekeepers are due out next week, leaving 65,000 Muslims protected from surrounding Serbs only by the threat of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) air strikes. Washington has sought tn

Guerrillas

attack

Israelis

and allies

in Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (AP) -

Guerrillas attacked Israeli

forces and their militia allies

in occupied South Lebanon

Saturday, wounded a militia-man and touching off artillery

and mortar bombardments.

Fighters of Hizbollah, or

Party of God, fired rocket-

propelled grenades and

machine-guns at three out-

posts manned by the Israelis

and the South Lebanon

Army (SLA), security

There were nn reports of

casualties from the early

morning attacks on the Zim-

raya, Kfar Nnha and Tomat

Niba un the northern edge of

the Israeli-occupied border

Israeli and SLA artillery

fired some 35 shells on sus-

pected Hizbollah positions

arnund Masbgara, 20

kilnmetres north of Mar-

jayoun, the main town in the

Hizbollab attacked two

other SLA outposts in the

afternoon, touching off re-

taliatory shelling near the vil-

lages of Kafra and Yater, the

Nn casualties were re-

But an SLA fighter was

wounded in a Hizbollah

bomb ambush inside the

security zone the late after-

noon, the sources reported.

responded with barrages of

artillery fire on suspected

Hizbollah hideouts in nearby

were killed by Israeli troops

Friday as they tried to infil-

were buried Saturday in

Baalbek, a Shiite stronghold

in the Syrian-controlled Be-

kaa Valley in eastern Leba-

About 3,000 Hizhollah supporters shouting "Death

to America" and "Death to

Israel" marched through the

streets behind the wooden

Sheikh Mohammad Yaz-

bek, a senior Hizbollah offi-

cial in the Bekaa, warned the

Israelis: "We shall hurn the

ground under their feet and

So far this year, 126 people

wounded in South Lebanon,

the sky over their heads."

coffins.

The slain fundamentalists

trate into the enclave.

Three Hizbollah guerrillas

Israeli and SLA gunners

ported in the attacks or the

sources said.

shelling.

so-called "security zone."

sources reparted.

reassure Bosnia that it stood by a promise to defend Muslim Gorazde in the eastern part of the country with NATO air strikes.

The NATO commitment, the American commitment, the commitment... still applies." Assistant Secretary of State Richard Hulbronke said on Friday.

Major powers meeting in London last month agreed that NATO would carry oot air strikes if the Serbs, who have already overrun two other nearby enclaves, tried to seize Gurazde.

Sarajevo.

steal gasoline.

London said they were prob-

ably "local boods" out to

The Bosnian army's press office in Gorazde had issued

a statement late Friday saying

that regular forces were not

Gorazde bas been named

as territorial bargaining chip

in published accounts of the

U.S. peace initiative, even

though the government bas vowed not to abandon it.

Rebel Serb leader Rado-

van Karadzic says the Serbs

could accept no less than 64

per cent of the land, while the

Bosnian government insists it

will not give up Gurazde for

other territory, as the plan

contacted by Reuters denied any knowledge of their pre-

Ms. Surami said: "It

appeared the Iraqis got rid of

their Iraqi passports some-

how before coming to Yemen

and they arrived without passports. The Swedish ar-

"This is against the law and

they (the group) will be de-

ported to where they had

come from once investiga-

He declined to say whether

they would he deported to

Frankfurt or to Sweden. He

also declined to give the names of the Iraqis or the

An official, speaking oo

condition of anonymity, told

tions are completed.

Swedes. .

rived without entry visas.

Mr. Holbrooke was due to fly to Europe on Sunday tn press a new U.S. plan aimed at ending four years of bloodshed in former Yugoslavia but he played down its chances of success.

The U.S. initiative was knocked off track after three top envoys died in a road accident last Saturday on their way to the Bosnian

capital, Sarajevo. U.S. officials launched their initiative boping to take advantage of a shift in the balance of power in the region after Croatia recaptured a fifth of its territory in the Krajina region with "Operatinn Storm.

The proposal reportedly The Washington plan to would allow land swaps to end the war in Bosnia and the belp divide Bosnia between crisis in former Yugoslavia as its Muslim-Croat majority a whole calls for territorial and rebel Serbs. The governswaps and would lift sancment would get 51 per cent of Bosnia and the Serbs 49 per tions un Serbia if it recognised its neighbours.

Asked about its prospects, Mr. Holbrooke said: "I'm not going to predict success. The success chance is pretty small. In Bosnia, the worstcase scenario usually takes

The United Nations mean-

SANAA (Agencies) — Ye-men will deport two Swedish

police officers and the Iraqi

family the police were escort-

ing to this Arahian Peninsula

state, a Yemeni security offi-

The Swedish officers, a

man and a woman, had

brought the four Iraqis to

Yemen after the family had

been expelled from Sweden.

The Iraqis, who had pre-viously lived in Yemen, had

chosen to come bere rather

than return to their home-

But Yemen's deputy chief

of state security police,

Mnbammad Al Surami, told

Reuters the Swedish officers

and the four Iraqis - a mar-

ried couple and their children

had entered Yemen ille-

gaily and would be deported.

A Swedish foreign ministry

spokeswoman said the two

officers had escorted the ex-

pelled Iraqi family nn Aug. 1.

attempted to leave Yemen,

authorities seized their pass-

ports and prevented them

leaving, although they were

not taken into custody, she

Ms. Surami said the Swed-

ish and Iraqis, who came from Sweden via Frankfurt,

were now staying at two

hotels in the Yemeni capital

Sanaa. But hotel officials

She said that when they

land.

said.

cial said on Saturday.

Sanaa to deport Swedish

officer and Iraqi family



SCIENCE WEEK: His Royal Highess Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday opens the third Jordanian Science Week at the Higher Conneil for Science and Technology (see page one) (Petra

# Sudan says it freed all political detainees

on Saturday announced it had freed 32 political prisoners, including former prime minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, and said the country's jails were now empty of political

Human rights groups have said the Islamist government holds at least 200 political

Dr. Mahdi, the leader of Sudan's biggest party, was given a hero's welcome by thousands of bis supporters. He was deposed in a military coup in 1989 led by Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir and has been detained several times

Abdul Basit Sabdrat, minister of culture and information, said Sudan's political prisons were now empty after the release of 19 members of the Umma Party of Al Mahdi, eight members of the Sudan Communist Party and five members of the Baath

Sudanese officials have put the number of political pris-

of northern Sudan, Dr. (Continued on page 7)

oners at between 30 and 70

but rights groups said it was

not less than 200, most of

whom are members of the

Umma Party, the Communist

Party of Sudan and the Baath

Arab Party. First Vice President Al

Znbeir Mnhammad Saleb

said the government was cur-

rently working on reaching a

national accord. He gave no

Sudan has announced

amnesties and national

accords in the past in a build

to break out of growing inter-

A reporter saw Dr. Mahdi

driven out of the prison in Khartourn on Saturday, three

days after an announcement

hy Gen. Bashir that all poli-

tical prisoners in Sudan will

He was sitting in front of a

Wearing a long gown

four-wheel-drive vehicle with

three of his aides sitting in the

which is the traditional dress

national isolation.

timately remain with their

sination attempt.

attack against him.

# Extremists kill 9 women in Algeria

ALGIERS (Agencies) -- Extremists in eastern Algeria killed the wives uf nine local patrolmen by slitting their throats and then decapitating sume of them, the dialy Le Matin reported Saturday.

It said the incident occurred nvernight last Saturday at El Garem near the town of Mila. Six victims were decapitated and the bodies of the three nthers were completely charred. In twn nf the cases, the attacks had been carried out by the victims' own brother and brother-inlaw who then "dreadfully mutilated" the bodies, the paper added.

The local patrols were set up a few months ago by the interior ministry aimed at deterring armed attacks, hut their members have often been targeted by extremists such as the radical Armed Islamic Group (GIA) who recently issued threats

against the men's wives. The GIA charges that 'Muslim women cannot legi-

ists who carried out the assas-

Mr. Mnharak said five

militants arrested recently on

tbeir way from Sudan to

Egypt confessed that they re-

ceived military training with

those who carried out the

journalist was killed by a

rian journalist.

Algiers Casbah.

dered the "enemies of God."

(Continued on page 7)

the assassination attempt, but

## Military option open with Sudan-Mubarak hosted the suspected terror-

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Muharak said that all options — including military action — remained open in dealing with Sudan, which Cairo accuses of bosting terrorists seeking to overthrow the Egyptian government.

AFP the Iraqi family of four "All options are open. If and the Swedes were to leave we were forced to resort to for Stockholm via Bonn on a the difficult alternative (militflight Saturday. ary action) to protect the The decision to return country, we will carry nut any them was taken "in agreestep. I could deal with the ment with the Swedish audevil" Mr. Mubarak told the London-hased Arabic daily thorities, given that the members of the Iraqi family do not Al Hayat in a lengthy inter-

have travel documents and view published on Saturday. have political refugee sta-Mr. Mubarak said he did the official said. not trust the Sudanese regime led by Licutenant-General He expressed fears, however, that the Iraqis, wbn Omar Hassasn Al Bashir and lived in Yemen before they backed by leader of the National Islamic Front went to Sweden, might refuse to travel oo from Bonn to

(NIF), Hassan Al Tnurabi. Egypt has accused Sudan of being involved in the failed assassination attempt against Mr. Mubarak in Addis Ababa last June. Relations between the two neighbours have reached their lowest level in years and a clash in the disputed border desert area of Halaib took place

Mr. Mubarak said that a recent government reshuffle in Sudan in which officials known for their close links to Dr. Tourabi were removed was a failed attempt to improve their image.

following Egypt's claims.

"They want to improve their image, but the black picture cannut be improved and a new picture has to come," Mr. Mubarak said.

tian president repeated

allegations that Khartnum

In his interview, the Egyp-

Egypt's largest militant organisation, Al Gamaa Al Islamiya, has claimed responsibility for the attack against Mr. Mnbarak.

The Ethiopian anthorities bave said that all those wbo took part in the attack were Egyptians, hut the planning took place in a third country which was not named.

Mr. Mubarak said that Ethiopia has asked Sudan to band over suspected militants kwho allegedly took part in

Khartoum has ignored the

He added that Dr. Tourahi's NIF was running 17 camps where military training is offered to Muslim militants from all over the world. Khartoum denies the existence of such camps and insist

they are farms.
"Now the Sudanese are trying to claim innocence, but their role in supporting terrorism is known for everyone, whether far or close, Mr. Mubarak said.

"We are telling them that extremists whom they are hosting flay a dangerous role against us, and I am warning them. Egypt is a big country and the people are asking for action against them, but I am

### ture and all other conceivable comforts of modern life. Poland approves

finently in the Chinese Hok-

kien and Mandarin dialects at

several shows. But the best

feature of the festival

embodying the spirit of weal-

thy Singapore is the burning

of mock currency, television

sets, mobile phones, furni-

anti-smoking law WARSAW (R) - Poland's lower bouse of parliament overwhelmingly approved a tough anti-smoking law which bans cigarette sales to minors and curbs tobacco advertising. The bill, passed by 335-9 with 28 abstentions, prohibits selling tobacco products to people under 18 years of age and limits smoking in public places to restricted areas. It bans cigarette vending machines and allows local governments to set their own anti-smoking regulations. It also bans tobacco advertising from television, radio, publications for youth, schools, universities, cultural institutions and sporting events. Health analysts say the law is badly needed in Poland, where nearly one third of the population smukes and the annual tobacco consumption reaches 100 billion cigarettes. The bill still needs to clear the Senate and Walesa to become law, but neither is expected to oppose

### Alcoholic lollipops fail to sweeten critics

DUBLIN (AFP) — Children too young to drink legally can get an early taste of adult life with a cider-flavoured loilipop and a promise of gin and tonic for Christmas - an invention that has infuriated anti-alcohol groups. Lolly-maker Silver Pail, based m Cork, southern Ireland, said its lollipops only contain 0.1 per cent alcohol and has already started selling its cider-flavoured version.



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# find Titanic's torpedoed sister

ATHENS (AFP) — Greek divers have found the wreck of the British liner the Britannic, sister-ship of the Titanic, after a two year search in the waters off southern mainland Greece, the Antenna televisinn station reported. The Britannic, which was used as a hospital ship by British forces in World War I, sank with the death of 56 people after being torpedoed by an enemy submarine on Nov. 21, 1916. Its more famous sister, the 46,000 ton Titanic, went down on its maiden voyage after hitting an iceberg in the North Atlantic in April 1912, with the death nf 1,490 people. Its remains were discovered and explored 3,000 metres (10,000 feet) down in 1985. The Olympic, the first of the trio nf giant trans-Atlantic liners to be built for the white Star Line, was scrapped in 1935.

### Singapore's ghosts return to purgatory

SINGAPORE (AP) — The gates of bell closed Friday and Singaporeans bid farewell to the ghosts who lived with them for the last month. Nobody appeared spooked at the end of the Same 371 wamen have been killed by Islamic fun-Hungry Ghosts Festival - a damentalists since last year coloniful mix of ancestor and hundreds of others kidworship, Chinese opera, pop concerts and show of wealth napped, tortured or raped. according to the Algerian security forces. in this otherwise prim city of colour-coordinated skyscrap-ers. Many Chinese believe that Meanwhile, another daily, Liberte, said Saturday that the spirits of the dead are let out from hell once a year to 300 people were arrested Wednesday during a sweep stay with living relatives durby Algerian police in the ing the seventh month of the lunar calendar. But those "They had provided supwithout living descendants or port to the armed groups for those ahandoned by their kin months, in terms of lodgings wander around, hungry and and information," the daily said, adding that 20 of the angry. For one month, giant cylindrical joss sticks painted detained belonged directly to Islamic fundamentalist with red, green and yellow. dragons have been hurned in most neighhourhoods of The paper noted there had Singapore, where 76 per cent been an upsurge of violence of the population of 3.3 milin the area over the last few lion is Chinese. Each year, days, which included the killfeasts are held in public housing parks, where roaming ghosts are invited to choose ing of an imam and an Alge-Security forces claimed the from buffet spreads of chicken, pork, rice and fruit. Later on, the food is also consumed by living guests. In earlier days, Chinese operas known as "wayang," were organised for the dead ancestors at latenight entertainment shows. Now, pop concerts are more common. This year, Singapore's attention was caught by a blond, green-eyed per-former from France who sang

if from six tier Vehammad isco in south rivals led a a Mand: Mohamti (2:0 mortar

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# anade explodes iran airport

34 (4FP) - A gre-Section at an airport The person, the mental news agency the section of Section most of ad reported Seagency said. An the supon was aken to hospital. explosion. dam-(Table) travellers were their frights in a below the the the base occurred. de la main armed e group, based in

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en anienced to bethe and eight years A part of a group of the partoned by the start of the Mine start or the long Reda Nasr told like had been held felles another five were mp 1, week while the My Very said adding None Said. adding to would all return to an Aug to 200 pris-

# Somalis flood home from refugee camps in Kenya

LIBOI, Kenya (AFP) — As the U.N. refugee agency tries to bring order from the chaos provoked by Zaire's moves to expel the hordes of Rwandans un its territory, it can take beart from a success the other side of Africa.

The Somalis who fled civil war and famine in their country three or four years ago to subsist on humanitarian rations in camps in the middle of nowhere across the border in Kenya have decided it is safe to return home.

While no end is in sight to the anarchy in the Somalia capital of Mogadishn, the general fighting that was feared after the failure of the United Nations peacekeeping exercise has not broken out.

Reassuring news brought by truck drivers and crossborder smugglers prompted staff of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to launch a partially assisted voluntary repatriation programme.

have been killed and 288 Lists of those who wanted to go home were drawn up, the last active warfront in the but the UNHCR left most of Arab-Israeli conflict. Twelve the organisation to the repeople have been slain in the fugees thmeselves.

"We are only following the movement, and now we are having to slow it down," said Jean-Claude do Rego, UNHCR field officer at Dadaab, 540 kilometres east of Nairobi.

"In my camp this week I bad 1,400 candidates for 900 As be spoke a fleet of 27

ancient trucks run by private operators waited at the small border post of Liboi to ship home the latest batch of some 2,380 people.

"Yesterday we gave them food for three months, and cooking and washing utensils," Mr. do Rego said. "This morning each one gets 30 dollars."

The heads of the various families, which in some cases were adolescents of no more than 14 years old, lined up. exchanging their ration cards for crisp new bank notes, placing a thumh print beside their names in guise of re-

œipt. Their faces were serious and none spoke or gave any sign of thanks. "That shocked me to begin with, hut ooe gets used to it," the field officer said.

"I suppose it's a question of culture: They consider it is their due."

stay intact for long. The sbarp-eyed truck drivers swooped on the refugees as soon as they emerged, demanding \$10 nr \$15 to drive them to Doble, the nearest town in Somalia, and more for a longer jonrney.

turned the small bundle of greenbacks over and over in his hands. "It's the first time in my life I have touched dollars," be smiled. "Hnw much are they worth?"

the refugee camps.

lems here," he said. "Robhery, and rape when the women go looking for wood. Even if life is hard. I prefer to face that sort of problem in my own country.

In fact the money did not

Mohammad Dubet, 45, Mr. Dubet said he was

going back because he had learned that matters had resolved themselves at Baidoa, his home, and life therepromised to be better than in "There are too many prob-

Some refugees bave already gone before on reconnaissance at their own expense, sending back news



two or threeyears in eastern Kenya (AFP photo)

"My family is in Buhale, I know they are waiting for us," said Abdullah Abdul Sheikh, 39. 'I think the war will not start up again, and we can plant for our food."

and letters with the truck

"They know exactly what they are going back to," Mr. do Rego said. "Every week the number of candidates for return increases, and there are no new arrivals, so we can conclude things are reasonable, despite alarming reports on the food situation in

As the diesel engines of the trucks coughed into life and the flowered print dresses of the women crammed into the rear sections flapped in the wind, some of the refugees waved and the children grin-

But while they said they were happy to be going home, there was still anxiety. A Kenyan police officer detailed to escort the convoy the six kilometres to the border explained that the fare demanded hy the truckdrivers included payment for

'protection" to the Somalia

clan militia controlling the For those who did not belong to the clan, or one of its allies, going home via Liboi was too risky, Mr. do Rego

said. "For them we are look-

ing at other ways, boat, or

So far more than 28,000 people have returned to Somalia since last December, and the UNHCR, which has a budget of \$12.2 million for 1995, aims to get the figure to 45,000 by the end of this

# be signed by President Lech

Shidad (AFP) - Iraq Section of the state of the sta of the Experient in-